



AGRIPPINA: ANCIENT ROME'S FIRST LADY

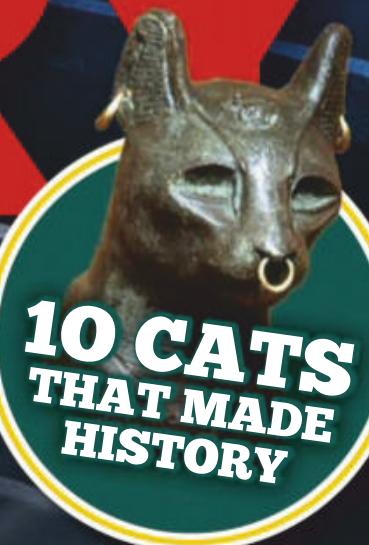
The scheming empress who took on Claudius, Caligula and Nero

BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE

# HISTORY

## REVEALED

# WHO KILLED THE PRINCES IN THE TOWER?



Did Richard III really steal the throne  
by murdering his young nephews?

### Slavery in Jamaica

The sugar plantations  
that left a sour taste

### The battle for power

How Thomas Edison lost  
his light-bulb moment

### Britain v the United States

The Battle of Boston Harbor

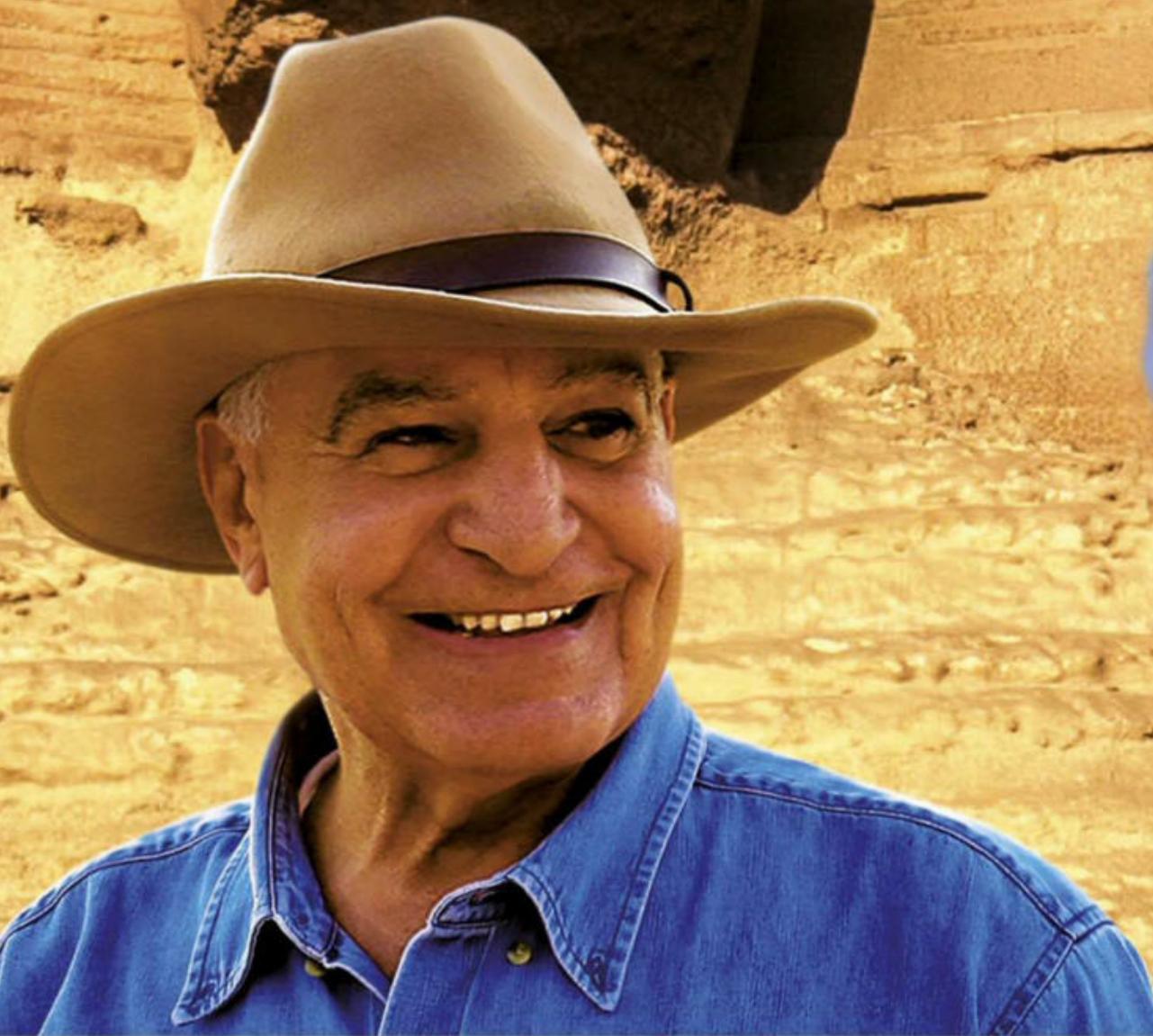
PLUS

The Great Escape  
Gladiators of Rome  
Florence Nightingale  
Vincent van Gogh  
Sir Don McCullin  
Peter Snow



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# THE ROYAL TOUR TO EGYPT



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# The killer king and the lost boys



The millions of people who visit the Tower of London every year get to explore a **millennium of English history**, learn about its many functions (including a zoo), and gaze in awe at the Crown Jewels. But no visit can go without hearing about one of **history's most enduring unsolved mysteries**: what happened to the Princes in the Tower? The young Edward V and his brother vanished while in the care of their **uncle, and usurper, Richard III**. And the finger has pointed at him since. Dr Lauren Johnson goes through the details to see whether it's possible to know the truth, from page 54.

While the fate of the princes has been subject to countless investigations, Christer Petley reveals the **life of someone history would prefer to forget**: a successful slaveholder named Simon Taylor (p49).

There's plenty more in the issue too, from the **Ancient Roman 'first lady'** Agrippina the Younger (p29) to the 20th-century fight of DC versus AC between **Edison and Tesla** (p42). And enjoy hearing about Don McCullin's extraordinary career as a war photographer in his own words (p35).

Happy reading!

**Paul McGuinness**  
Editor

**Don't miss our April issue, on sale 21 March**

## CONTRIBUTORS



**Lauren Johnson**  
Taking a break from her Henry VI biography, the historian and author digs through the clues of the Princes in the Tower mystery. See page 54



**Don McCullin**  
Referred to as the world's greatest living photographer, Don McCullin talks about the extraordinary events he's captured. See page 35



**Peter Snow**  
The esteemed broadcaster and historian Peter Snow talks to us about his sorrow at the loss of Britain's railways and why he'd like to meet the Duke of Wellington. See page 17

## THIS MONTH WE'VE LEARNED...

**778**

The length, in days, of the reign of Richard III, from 1483-85. But did any of those days witness him ordering the murder of his two young nephews in the Tower of London? See page 54.

**23**

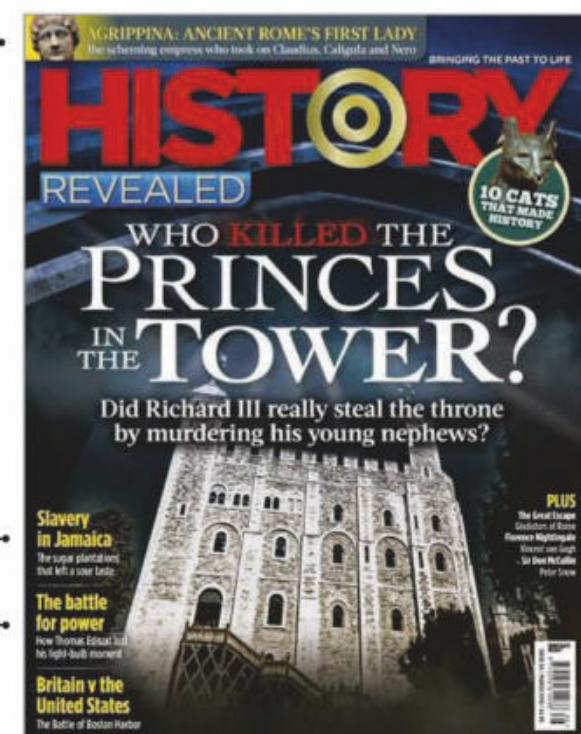
The number of runs that the British Empire's Canadian Province won by in the first official international cricket match against the United States in September 1844. See page 77.

**2,000**

The approximate number of slaves owned by 18th-century sugar plantation owner Simon Taylor. His Jamaica plantations made him one of the wealthiest men in the British Empire. See page 49.

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Since Ancient Egypt, cats have known they were the boss



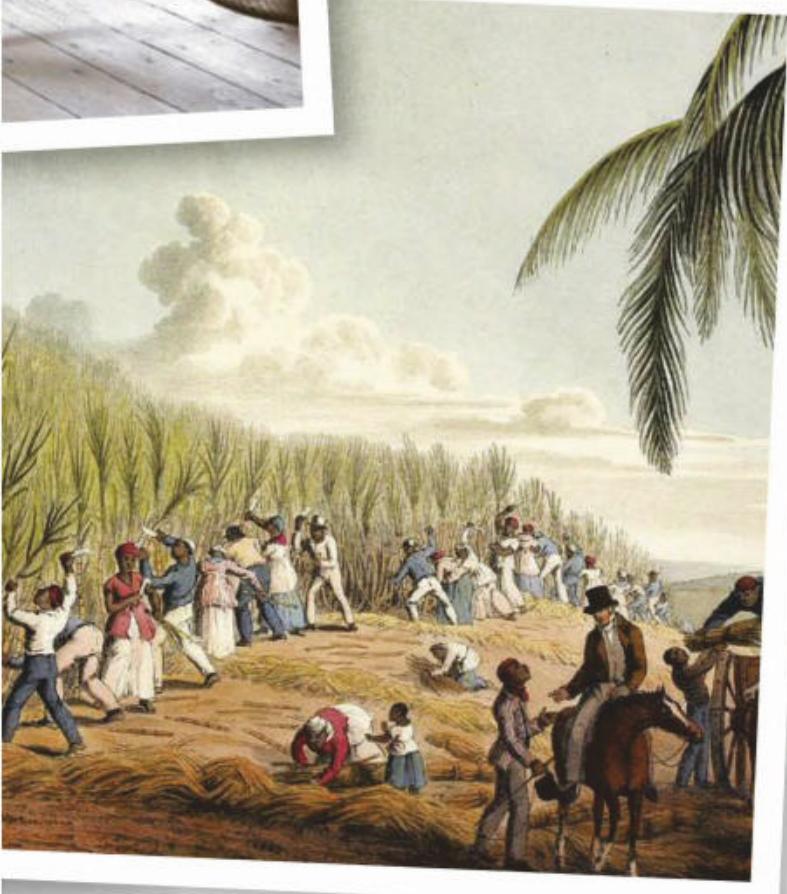
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The Lady with the Lamp's light goes out



# MARCH 2019

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More details on our special offer on **p26**



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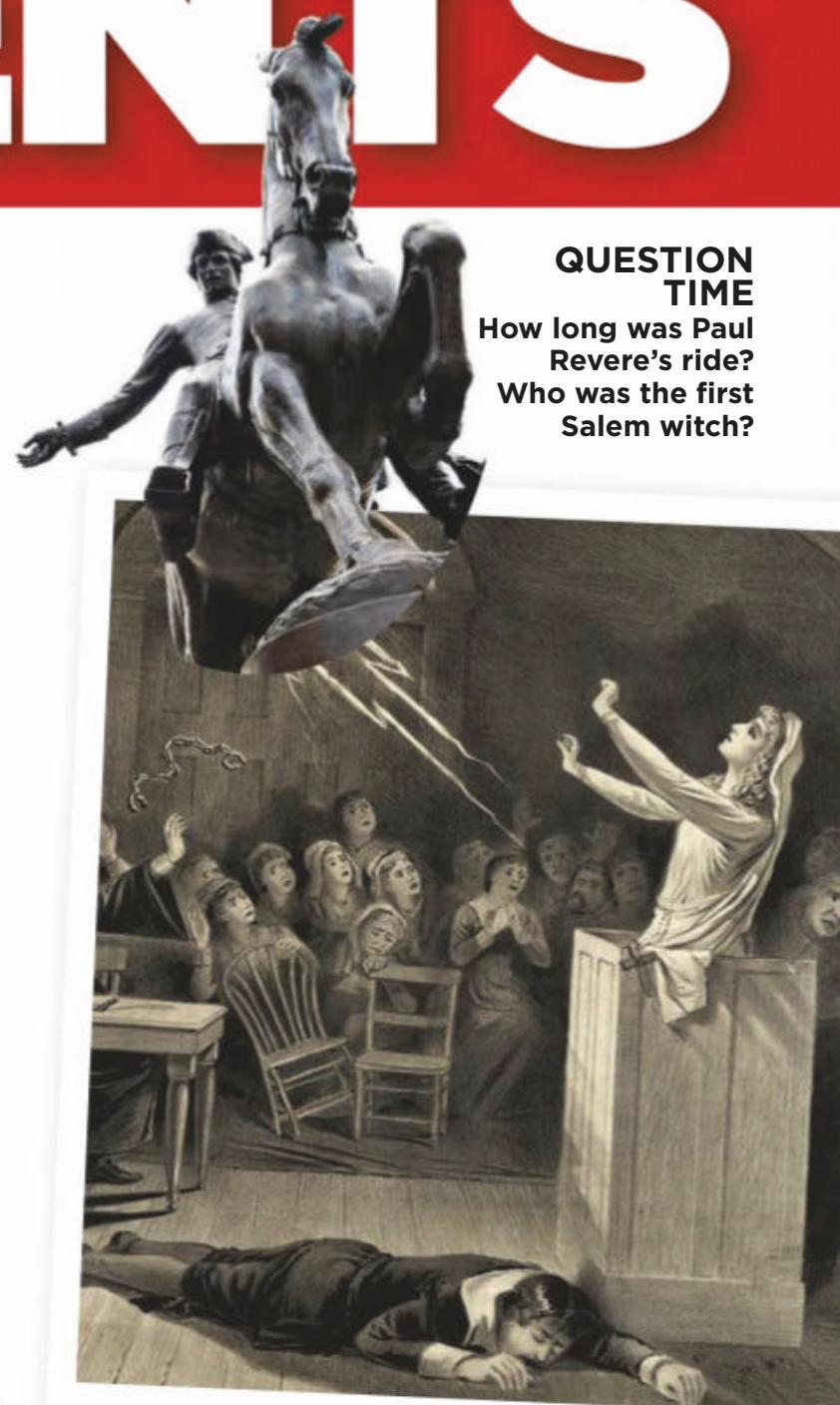
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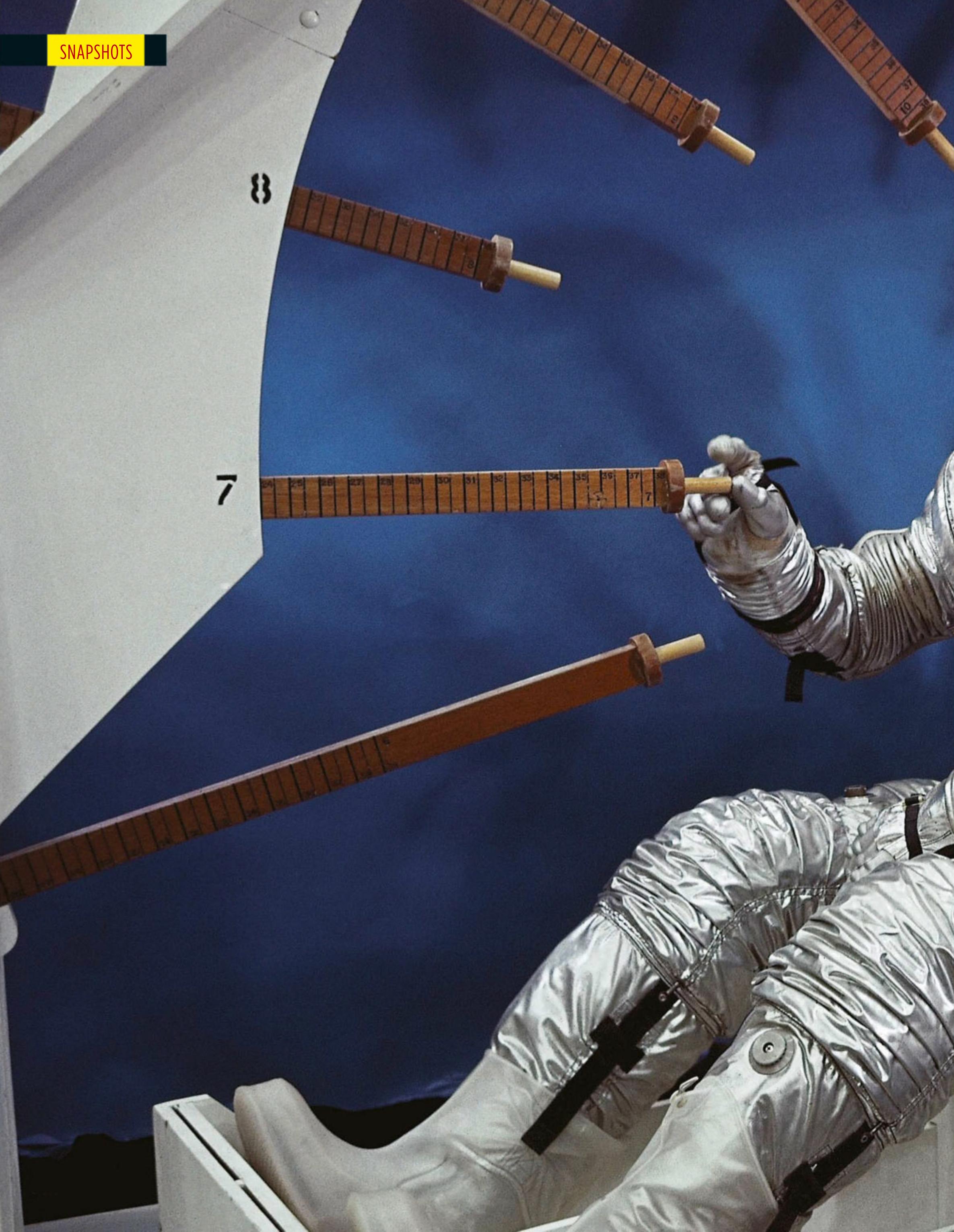




# 1953 LEAN INTO IT

Constables at the police training centre in Hendon are being put through their paces as they prepare for the massive crowds expected at the coronation of Elizabeth II. As volunteers play the role of a surging crowd, the policemen link arms to cope with the pressure and hold them back. The training was put to good use as the coronation saw an estimated 3 million people take to the streets of London.

SNAPSHOTS





## 1964 REACH FOR THE STARS

American John Young tests a space suit to determine its range of motion. Young would go on to become the longest-serving NASA astronaut, making six spaceflights, and was the ninth person to walk on the Moon, on the Apollo 16 mission. The year after this space suit test, he had to be reprimanded for smuggling a non-regulation corned-beef sandwich onto the Gemini 3 mission.





## 1923 **HUNGRY CROWDS**

A London butcher hands out hot cross buns to children on Good Friday. They were a welcome treat as times had become tough following the end of World War I. The exporting of British goods had slowed in favour of furthering the war effort, allowing other countries to take control of the markets Britain had once dominated. The nation faced an economic slump and soaring unemployment.

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Sebastian Faulks

**'THE DEFINITIVE  
ACCOUNT OF  
THE LIFE OF A  
"GIFTED" TRAITOR'**

Daily Express

VINTAGE

**A SPY  
NAMED  
ORPHAN**

THE ENIGMA OF  
DONALD  
MACLEAN

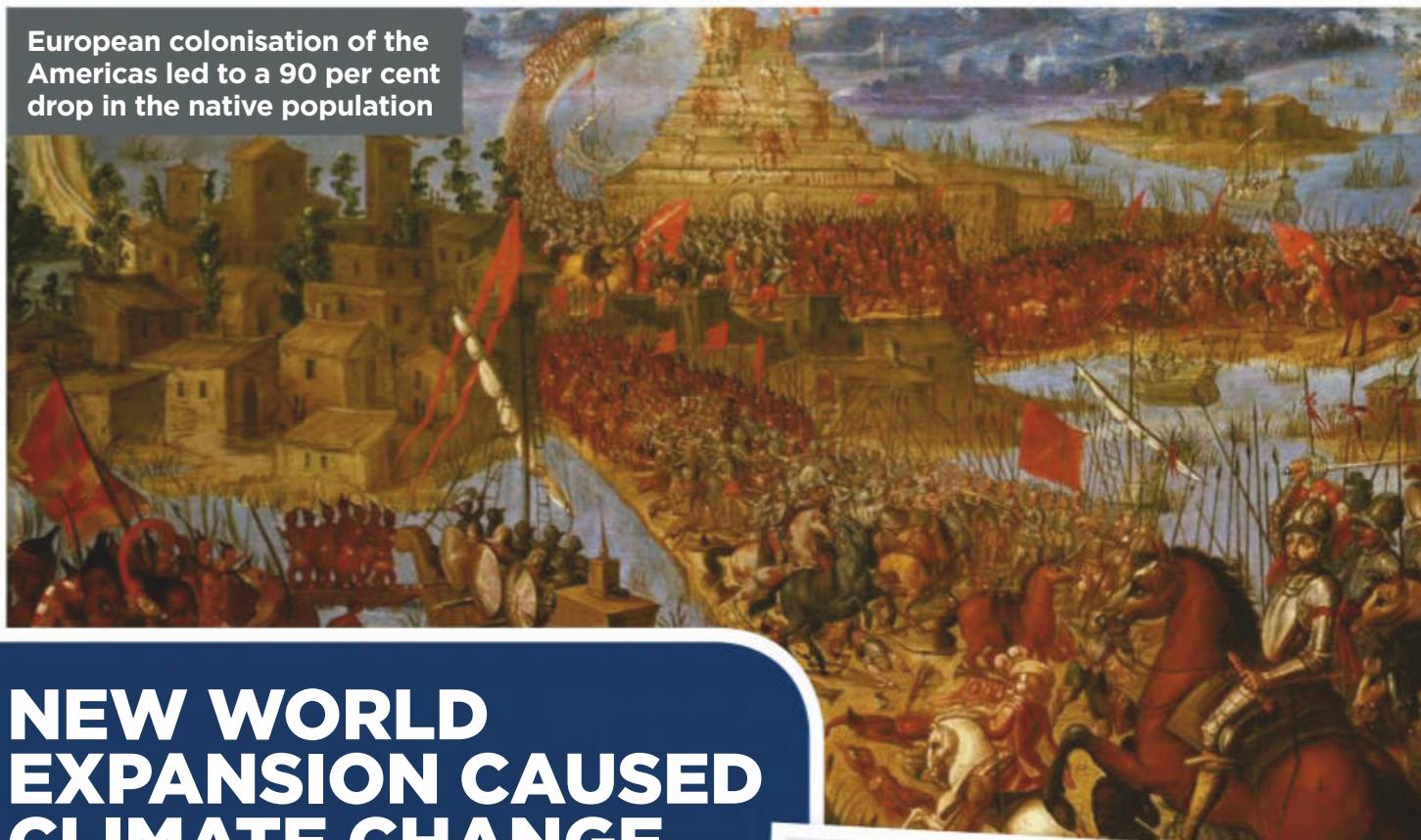
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Giving you a fresh perspective on the events and findings from history

## HISTORY IN THE NEWS

European colonisation of the Americas led to a 90 per cent drop in the native population



### NEW WORLD EXPANSION CAUSED CLIMATE CHANGE

Genocide of indigenous peoples in America led to the 'Little Ice Age'

The European colonisation of the Americas in the 15th and 16th centuries resulted in so many deaths that the Earth's temperature dropped, according to a new study.

Around 56 million indigenous people are estimated to have died between 1492 and 1600, through massacres by European settlers, war and exposure to new diseases. Acres of land roughly the size of France was left untended and became overgrown. The newly abundant vegetation then soaked up so much carbon dioxide that the Earth actually cooled.

Scientists at University College London studied both population data and records from ice core samples, which reveal a drop in carbon dioxide in air bubbles.

The effect of this was felt in northern Europe between the 16th and 19th centuries. It became known as the 'Little Ice Age', when temperatures plummeted. The River Thames in London would regularly freeze during the winters and famines swept the continent.

After Christopher Columbus's initial journey to the Americas in 1492, a rapid period of colonisation took place. The native people were pushed out of the land they had called home for centuries as European settlers expanded further, building settlements and farms. Around 90 per cent of the native population had been wiped out by the following century. Scientists believe this



research could help us understand how to tackle global warming. "The warming we've already experienced is greater than the cooling seen at the Little Ice Age, and will only get greater," said Dr Chris Brierley, a member of the UCL team who carried out the study.

"The amount of warming depends on how much carbon dioxide we emit. The example of the Americas shows that reforestation is able to suck down CO<sub>2</sub> at a global scale. But it also shows how that effect is limited. The CO<sub>2</sub> drop during the Little Ice Age was seven to 10 parts per million (ppm). That compares with current levels rising by 2-3ppm per year."

### SIX OF THE BEST...

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### YOUR HISTORY

Historian and TV and radio presenter Peter Snow....p17



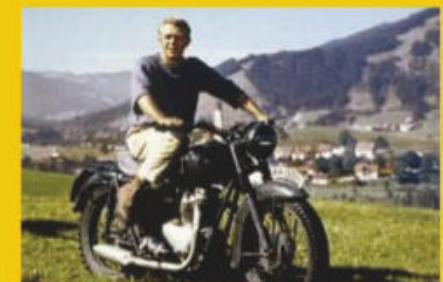
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### TIME CAPSULE: 1805

Trooping the Colour gets an annual parade.....p22



IN THE NEWS

## RUDOLF HESS DOPPELGANGER THEORY DEBUNKED BY DNA TESTS

Scientists have put to rest the rumours surrounding Adolf Hitler's right-hand man

For decades, rumours have persisted that the man held in Spandau Prison in Berlin, was not actually Rudolf Hess, the deputy leader of the Nazi Party and convicted war criminal, but an imposter. Now, more than 30 years after the prisoner 'Spandau #7' died in 1987, DNA testing has debunked this long-standing conspiracy theory that Hess had escaped justice.

A US military doctor, Sherman McCall, had come upon a sample of blood belonging to the Spandau inmate and contacted Jan Cemper-Kiesslich, a molecular biologist from the University of Salzburg, Austria. After they found a living relative of Hess's, Cemper-Kiesslich and his team compared the samples and found a 99.99 per cent chance that they were related. "We were happy with the result so we



Hess at his trial at Nuremberg, sat next to Herman Göring; the decisive blood sample of Spandau #7

could disprove the theory," announced Cemper-Kiesslich.

Hess was deputy leader of the Nazi Party and fiercely loyal to Hitler but he was captured in 1941 when he made a now-infamous solo flight to Scotland and had to make a parachute landing. Tired of the fighting between Britain and Germany, he had hoped to negotiate a secret peace deal. Hess was imprisoned for the rest of World War II – briefly being held in the Tower of London – before being transferred to Spandau in 1947 after his trial at Nuremberg. He stayed there until he committed suicide in 1987, at the age of 93, by

which time he was the prison's only remaining inmate.

Rumours circulated that it wasn't Hess who had been captured, but a doppelganger. Even Spandau's doctor had doubts. Theorists pointed to the fact that Hess wouldn't let his family visit him until 1969, as well as to his frequent claims of amnesia. Many couldn't believe someone so loyal to Hitler would have attempted to broker peace with Britain.

Hess was buried at a family plot in Germany, but then excavated and cremated in 2011 amid fears of it becoming a neo-Nazi shrine.

## SIX OF THE BEST... CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Humans can be a suspicious bunch, thinking there's more than meets the eye



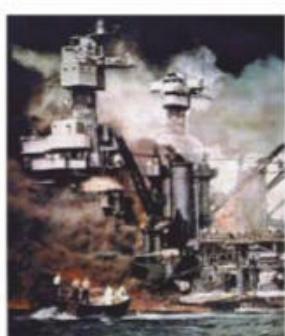
### 1 THE MOON LANDING

In 1969, humankind made a giant leap, but some believe the US was so desperate to win the space race before the end of the decade that the Moon landing was all faked on a film set.



### 2 THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK

Novelist Alexandre Dumas popularised the idea that a mysterious masked man held in the Bastille prison was the unknown older brother of Louis XIV – sparking the rumours.



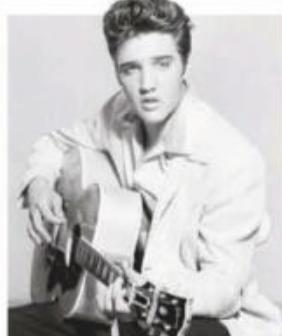
### 3 THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR

It has been claimed that US President Franklin D Roosevelt knew beforehand of the Japanese attack on the Hawaiian base, but let it happen to persuade the US to enter the war.



### 4 THE ASSASSINATION OF JFK

With grassy knolls and magic bullets, Kennedy's death is a constant source of speculation. Fingers have been pointed at the CIA, Mafia and JFK's successor Lyndon B Johnson.



### 5 ELVIS FADED HIS DEATH

Devoted fans are still desperate to prove that the King hasn't left the building. Multiple 'sightings' have been claimed, including an extra in the *Home Alone* films and at Graceland.



### 6 HITLER'S ESCAPE

Many Nazis escaped to South America, even, if the theorists are to be believed, the Führer himself. Most historians agree, however, that Hitler killed himself in his bunker in 1945.

A team at the University of Bristol hope to find secrets of the Arthurian legends



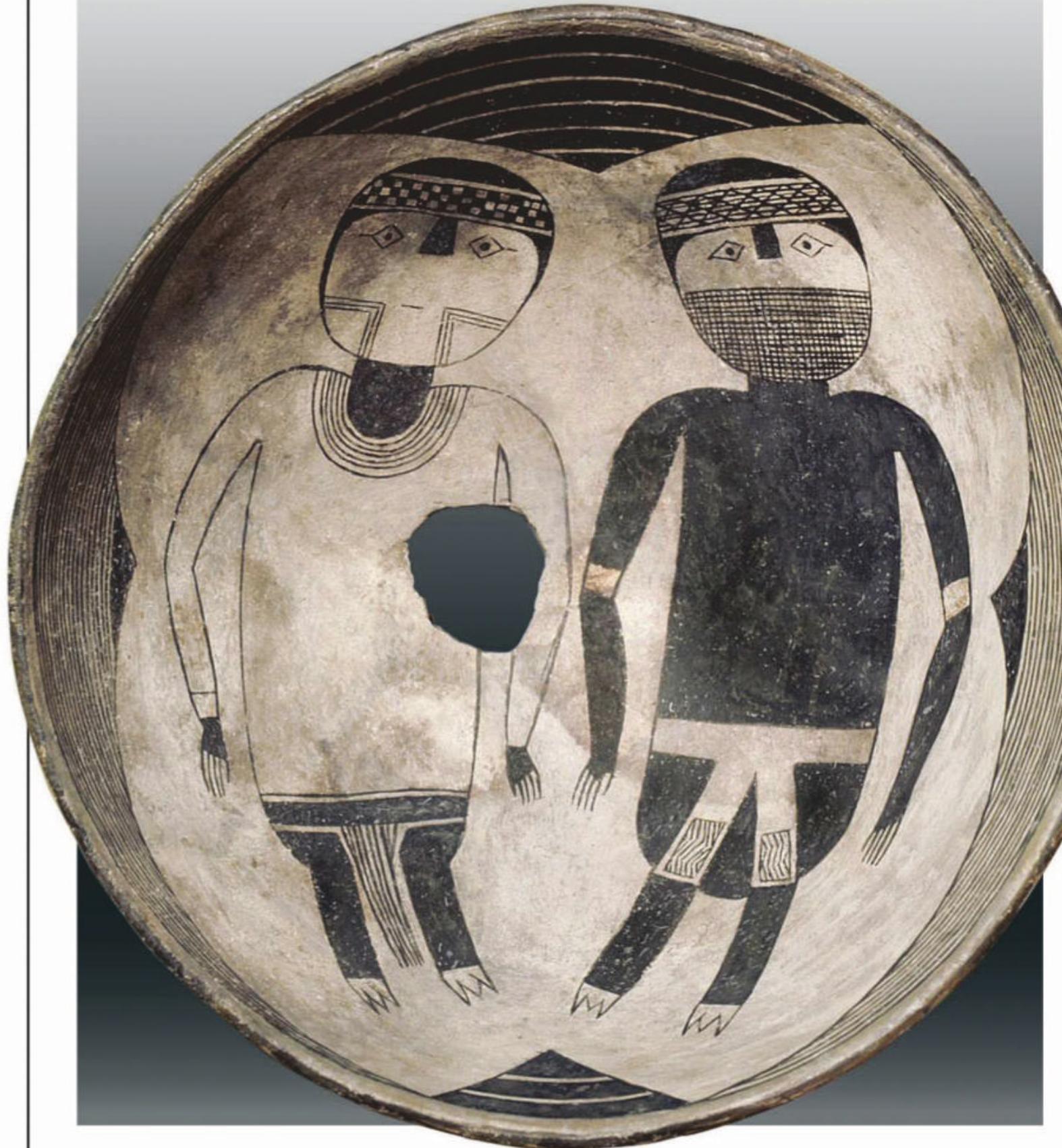
# TIME PIECE

A look at everyday objects from the past

## FOR WHOM THE BOWL TOLLS

The lost tribe who made this used their crockery for more than just eating

**W**hat a shame – this bowl has clearly been damaged over the centuries and got a hole in the bottom. Except that's not damage. The Mogollon people, a Native American culture that thrived from the second century to the 15th in what is now Arizona and Mexico, intentionally put holes in their pottery. Intricately designed bowls like this would be placed over the head of the deceased during a burial ritual, and the 'kill hole' would release the spirit into the afterlife.



IN THE NEWS

## FRAGMENTS OF UNKNOWN MERLIN STORY UNEARTHED

New tales of the Arthurian wizard were found inside a Bristol library book

**T**he unknown version of a story involving Merlin – the mythical wizard in King Arthur's court – has been found in the archives of Bristol Central Library.

The seven fragments were written in Old French in the 13th century, but they were found inside an unrelated work from a 15th-century French scholar. They tell the tale of Merlin, Arthur and his knights as they prepare for the Battle of Trèbes. This version predates any in English and features alterations to the known story.

“Once all of these differences have been explored, the project team will be able to determine the exact place of the fragments in the existing textual tradition,” said Dr Leah Tether, of the International Arthurian Society and academic at the University of Bristol. “This version may have influenced later retellings, such as Sir Thomas Malory’s *Le Morte d’Arthur*.” To date, no source material correlates with that famous 15th-century work.

# HISTORY IN COLOUR

Colourised photographs that bring the past to life

See more colourised pictures by  
Marina Amaral  @marinamaral2



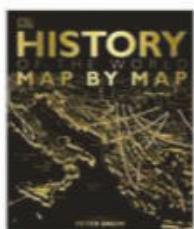
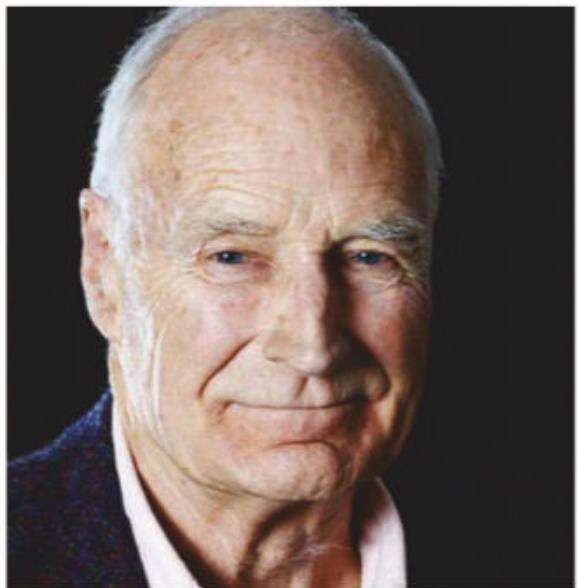
## BANDIT'S ROOST 1888

A hotspot for gang activity, this alley in the notorious Five Points neighbourhood of Lower Manhattan was considered one of the most dangerous places in 19th-century New York. Those living in the cramped slums were mostly poor immigrants forced into a life of crime as they struggled in their search of the American Dream.

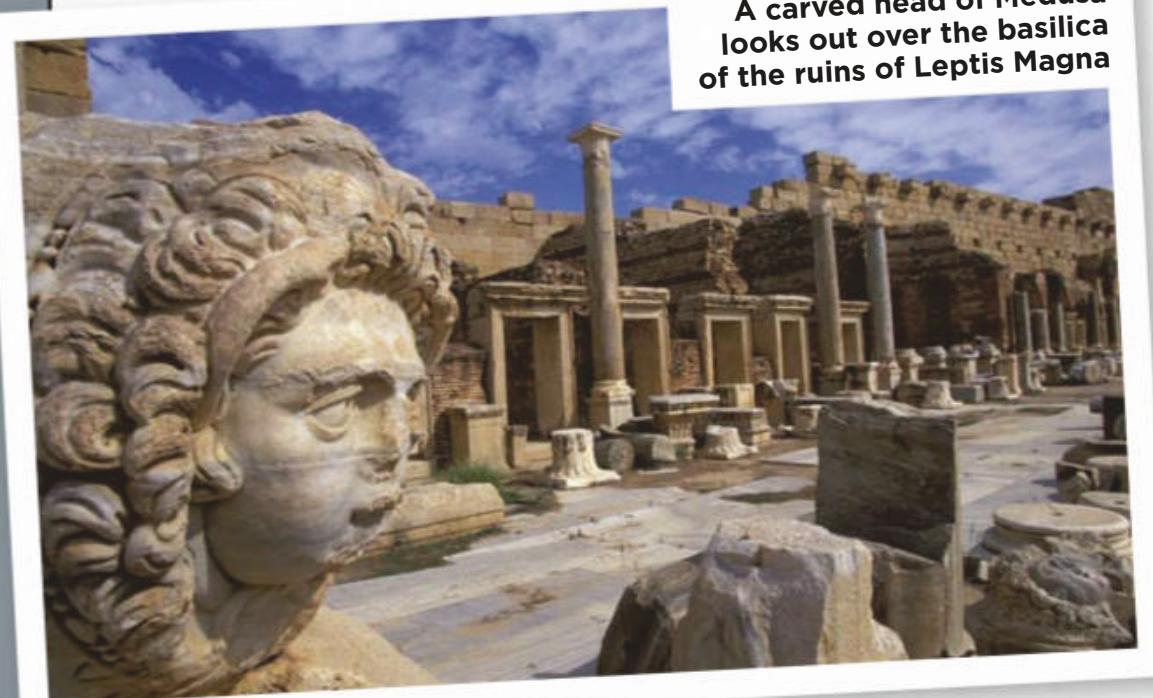
# YOUR HISTORY

## Peter Snow

The distinguished broadcaster and historian talks to us about the loss of the railways, the bravery of a World War II nurse and the Duke of Wellington's failings



Peter Snow wrote the foreword for the new *History of the World Map by Map* (DK), a visual guide going from the first humans to the present day.



A carved head of Medusa looks out over the basilica of the ruins of Leptis Magna

**Q If you could turn back the clock, which single event in history would you want to change?**

I would like Dr Beeching to have increased rather than cut back Britain's railways in 1963. He scrapped no less than half of the railway stations and 5,000 miles of tracks in his landmark reshaping of our trains. We are now regretting the impact this had on rail transport and, today, the pressure on our roads is turning more people to rail travel. Besides, I am an obsessive lover of trains and railways!

**Q If you could meet any figure from history, who would it be?**

The Duke of Wellington – a gifted soldier and commander, but a poor politician. Feared and respected by his men, he never lost a battle. He masterminded the Peninsular campaign and was the decisive leader in Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo. But there was little subtlety about him and it's not surprising that he was no great success when he became Prime Minister in 1828. I'd like to explore what made him so effective on the battlefield and yet so lacking in political judgment.

**Q If you could visit any historical landmark in the world tomorrow, where would you go?**

The Roman ruins at Leptis Magna in Libya. I have long been fascinated by the products of the Greek and Roman civilisations, and have visited most of the great relics of classical construction around the Mediterranean, but not Leptis. It is said to be the best preserved mature Roman city ever built, but – alas – inaccessible in today's chaotic political climate. Expanded on a massive scale by Septimius Severus at the end of the second century, I understand that it is sadly neglected.

**Q Who is your unsung history hero?**

Augusta Chiwy. She was a Congolese-born Belgian nurse, who found herself trapped in Bastogne during Hitler's Ardennes offensive. She acted with extraordinary bravery to help the only American army doctor in the town, dragging the wounded from the field when bullets were flying and treating those who couldn't be moved. One US soldier tended by Chiwy said to the doctor that he didn't like being treated by a black nurse. "Oh well, fine," was the response he got, "you can be treated by her, or you can die."

**"We now regret the impact Dr Beeching had on rail transport"**



# The Daily Mirror

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MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 1910

One Halfpenny.

MISS FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE, "THE ANGEL OF THE CRIMEA," WHOSE DEATH IS ANNOUNCED, WITH SOME OF THE NURSES WHOSE PROFESSION SHE CREATED.



The whole civilised world is mourning to-day the loss of Miss Florence Nightingale, "The Angel of the Crimea," whose death at the age of ninety occurred on Saturday at her London residence. At a time when our soldiers were left without proper care she, with a band of thirty-eight nurses, volunteered to go out to the Crimea, her devotion to the soldiers compelling universal admiration. Her work during the war

actually brought the nursing profession into being. She followed it by establishing nursing homes all over the world. Above Miss Nightingale is seen surrounded by a group of probationers at the Nightingale Home at St. Thomas' Hospital. Although the photograph was taken over twenty years ago, it is one of the last photographs in which she appeared.

# YESTERDAY'S PAPERS

Another timeless front page from the archives

## FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE PASSES AWAY

She was a trailblazer of modern nursing, but the lady with the lamp's light finally went out

The news that the woman who transformed nursing and made giant strides in healthcare reform had died on 13 August 1910 sent Britain into mourning. When the nation had joined the Crimean War more than five decades earlier, field hospitals were appalling, with overcrowded wards, few supplies and infection rife. Hygiene was such a low priority that more soldiers died from disease, like dysentery, than battle. This was nothing new, but the war was being photographed and widely reported, so the public had to face the truth of these conditions.

Sidney Herbert, Secretary at War, had to act, and, in 1854, sent Florence Nightingale and a group of nurses to Scutari (in modern-day Turkey). Having wanted to help people from a young age and trained in Germany, she had been managing a hospital for gentlewomen on Upper Harley Street, London.

Nightingale and her 38 nurses met with resistance at first, but she set to work having wards thoroughly cleaned, patients freshly clothed and hand-washing practices implemented. What's more, soldiers were treated with dignity they were not used to. The death toll still rose, however, so the War Office sent a Sanitary Commission, which found that the hospital was built on a sewer. Once the buildings were flushed out, the death rate dropped.

Nightingale became a celebrity almost overnight after illustrations of her tending to patients even during the night appeared in newspapers. The

image of the 'lady with the lamp' was soon everywhere. She shied away from her hero status on her return to Britain, instead focussing on her work.

Not only did she prompt a royal commission into the health of the army – and the vast amount of statistics she provided led to numerous reforms – but her book *Notes of Nursing* became, and still is, a practical introduction to caring and hygiene. Then in 1860, she established the world's first secular nursing school at St Thomas' Hospital in London.

In later life, Nightingale was often confined to her bed as she suffered, it is believed, from brucellosis, caught during her time in Crimea. Yet she continued her campaign to improve the health of the army and people in India, and introduced nurses into workhouses.

Nightingale died, aged 90, in her sleep. At her request, her family refused a burial at Westminster Abbey. A memorial service at St Paul's, though, drew hundreds of nurses, grateful for her making theirs a professional, life-saving occupation. ◎

Florence Nightingale believed she had been called by God to serve



ABOVE: Nurses at St Thomas's Hospital, trained at the school bearing Nightingale's name LEFT: The gold brooch presented to Nightingale by Queen Victoria

# THIS MONTH IN... 1944

Anniversaries that have made history

## THE GREAT ESCAPE

Under cover of darkness, 76 men crawled to freedom from a Nazi POW camp. But their story would have a tragic conclusion

**O**n a bitterly cold March evening in 1944, a daring plan saw 76 prisoners escape a Nazi prisoner of war camp via a tunnel. Stalag Luft III was a Luftwaffe-run facility used during World War II to hold captured western air force personnel near Żagań in modern-day Poland.

More than 600 men took over a year to complete the preparations. RAF Squadron Leader Roger Bushell was the mastermind behind the plan, for which three tunnels were dug with the intention of getting 200 prisoners out. The tunnels – nicknamed Tom, Dick and Harry – were created simultaneously, as it was assumed that, if one was found, no one would assume there were two more. Harry was the tunnel finally used, after Tom was discovered in September 1943 and Dick was abandoned when its planned exit point was considered for a camp expansion.

Extensive work went into the operation, requiring a multitude of skills. The tunnels were dug 30ft below the surface, with wooden boards from prison beds holding them up. The earth extracted, which was a sandy colour, had to be discreetly hidden or sprinkled onto the topsoil. The prisoners stole a wire to supply a string of bulbs to light the tunnels, and set about forging documents. The first group of men chosen to escape were those with the most chance of being successful – those who spoke German and had escaped before – as well as those who had put the most work into the tunnels.

On 24 March, under cover of darkness, the escape began. However, the exit had been misjudged, and came out a few feet short of the shelter of the forest. The escapees had to move slowly, and as the 77th emerged, a sentry spotted him. Those already out ran for their lives, while those waiting inside the tunnel destroyed their forged papers in panic.

Only three of the escapees managed to evade capture: two made it to Sweden and the other to Gibraltar. Hitler was so furious with the attempt that 50 of the recaptured prisoners were shot, in an incident now known as the Stalag Luft III murders.

Paul Brickhill, an Australian pilot who didn't participate in the attempt due to claustrophobia, later wrote a book that went on to inspire the 1963 film *The Great Escape*, starring Steve McQueen and Richard Attenborough. ◎





ABOVE: A German guard in the 'Harry' tunnel RIGHT: Today, boards mark where the tunnel emerged



**"I was just going to try and stay alive – that's all I could do"**

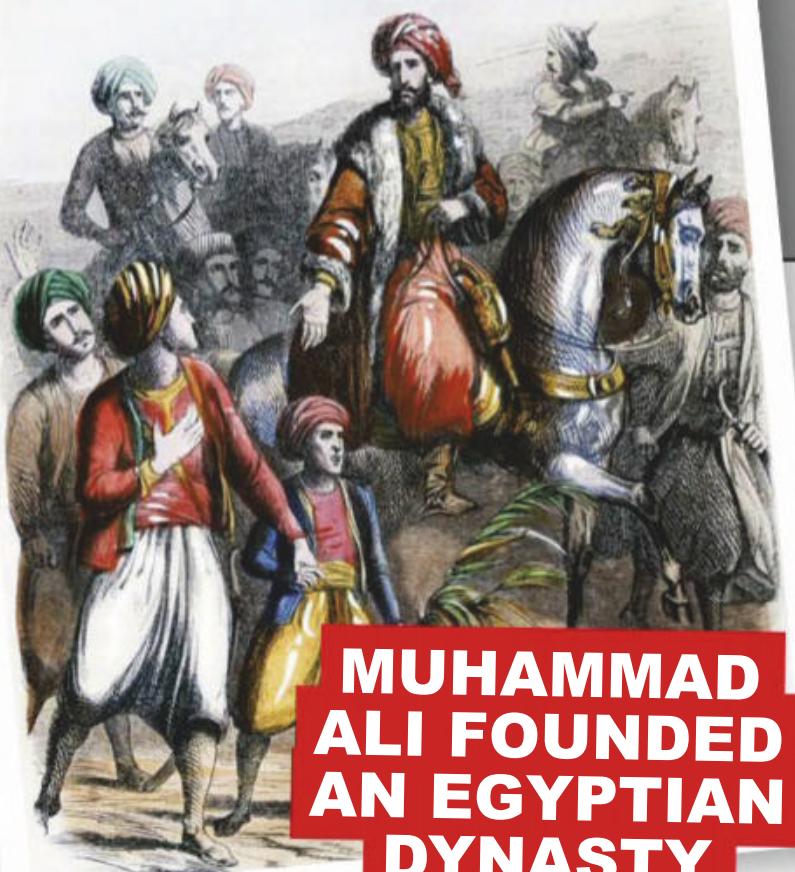
POW Jack Lyon, who was waiting to escape when the tunnel was discovered

Steve McQueen as Captain Hilts in *The Great Escape*; during filming, he was arrested and jailed for speeding

# TIME CAPSULE 1805

Snapshots of the world from one year in the past





## MUHAMMAD ALI FOUNDED AN EGYPTIAN DYNASTY

Egypt had been a semi-autonomous province of the Ottoman Empire since 1517, but after the French invaded in the late 18th century and withdrew a few years later, they left the country without a powerful leader. In stepped Ottoman commander Muhammad Ali. He consolidated power by removing opponents such as the Mamluks, who had controlled Egypt for centuries, and in 1805, Ali was made the Ottoman's viceroy in Egypt and given the title of pasha. He restructured society, created European-style schools for doctors and engineers, and is credited by some with forging a modern Egyptian state. His dynasty ruled until the 1952 revolution.



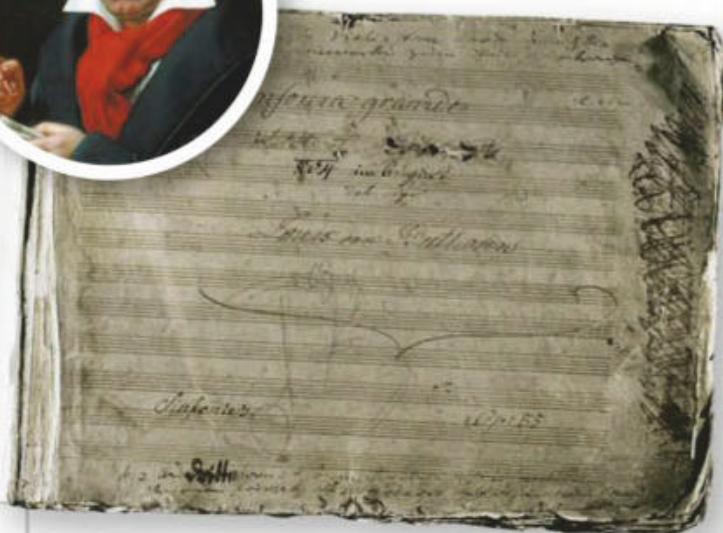
## DIED: 21 OCTOBER HORATIO NELSON

The most resounding victory of Admiral Horatio Nelson, the brilliant naval commander during the wars with revolutionary and Napoleonic France, would also be his last. At Trafalgar, a French invasion was thwarted and British naval supremacy assured, but the battle cost Britain the life of a national hero.



## BEETHOVEN'S THIRD SYMPHONY PREMIERES

On 7 April 1805, avid audiences in Vienna were treated to the first performance of Beethoven's third symphony. Celebrated as one of his greatest works, it was originally dedicated to Napoleon Bonaparte and intended to symbolise his heroic nature – it's also known as the 'Eroica symphony'. But after Napoleon named himself Emperor of France, Beethoven condemned him as a 'tyrant', tore the score in half in rage, and rededicated the piece to his patron, Prince Franz Joseph von Lobkowitz.



## TROOPING THE COLOUR BECOMES AN ANNUAL EVENT

Trooping the Colour takes place every June at Horse Guards Parade to mark the monarch's official birthday, and is a popular spectacle. It was installed as an annual parade on 4 June 1805, during George III's reign and has been held every year since, with a few exceptions, including the two world wars. The parade commemorates the ancient military practice of parading flags, or colours, to familiarise soldiers with the emblems for battle. Young officers would 'troop' the flags between the ranks. Today, it's a more sedate affair, with troops presenting for the Queen.

## ALSO IN 1805...

### SUMMER

Two workmen, Luke Brooks and Francis Whitcomb, discover the rock formation, later known as the Old Man of the Mountain, in New Hampshire, USA. It collapsed in 2003.

### 11 JUNE

A fire sweeps through Detroit, Michigan, destroying the majority of its buildings. Luckily, no-one was killed, and the fire is remembered in the city's motto: "It will rise from the ashes."

### 2 AUGUST

The first Eton vs Harrow school cricket match takes place at Lord's, with a young Lord Byron representing Harrow. It's one of the longest-running sport fixtures in the world.

### 9 SEPTEMBER

The French Republican calendar – featuring newly named months and 10-day weeks – is abolished, and France returns to the Gregorian version the following year.

### 26 NOVEMBER

Spanning the Dee Valley and 38 metres tall, the highest navigable aqueduct in the world, Pontcysyllte, opens in Wales.

## BORN: 2 APRIL HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN

Born into relative poverty, Danish writer Hans Christian Andersen was sent to a school for poor children, then moved to Copenhagen at the age of 14 to support himself as an actor and singer. After his voice changed, he focused on writing, creating some of the world's best-loved fairy tales, including *The Little Mermaid*.

## REWIND

**900**

In under a decade, between November 1881 and July 1890, Vincent van Gogh produced almost 900 paintings and more than 1,000 drawings. Around 70 were done in his last weeks.

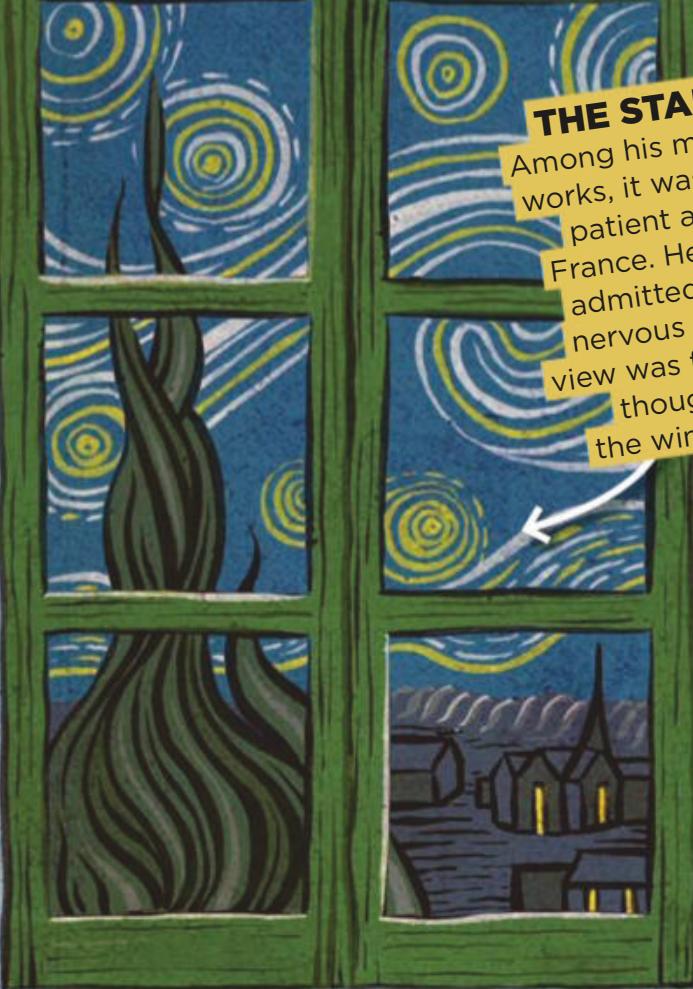
### SELF-PORTRAITS

Vincent van Gogh drew and painted dozens of self-portraits as they developed his style, offered a chance for self reflection, and because he couldn't afford to pay models.



### THE STARRY NIGHT

Among his most recognisable works, it was painted while a patient at an asylum in France. He had voluntarily admitted himself after a nervous breakdown. The view was from his bedroom, though the bars on the window are absent.



### STATE OF MIND

Suffering from depression, and possibly epilepsy or schizophrenia, his mental health fluctuated. During an argument with artist Paul Gauguin in 1888, van Gogh cut off his left ear and sent it to a woman who worked as a cleaner at a nearby brothel. He had no memory of the incident, and was plagued by hallucinations the rest of his days.



### SUNFLOWERS

The eternal sunflowers appear across two series of paintings, done between 1887 and 1889. Vincent van Gogh intended two of the works to decorate Gauguin's room in his Yellow House in Arles.

### HIS BEDROOM

Vincent van Gogh's famous bedroom portrait was of his room in the Yellow House in Arles. The bright colours are a result of discolouration so what we see as blue was actually purple. The odd perspective was a deliberate attempt by van Gogh to mimic a Japanese print.

**650**

Vincent van Gogh had to be finally supported by his brother Theo, to whom he would write frequently. When a book of nearly 900 of van Gogh's letters was published in 1914, more than 650 were to Theo.



37

On 29 July 1890, Vincent van Gogh died some 30 hours after shooting himself in the chest. He was 37. His death is the cause of many theories as he refused to answer any questions about his apparent suicide.

**THE RED VINEYARD**  
Only one of his paintings sold during his lifetime: *The Red Vineyard at Arles*. It went to a collector (and sister of a friend) for 400 francs, seven months before his death.

**CAFÉ TERRACE AT NIGHT**

"A painting of night without black," was how van Gogh described this painting in a letter to his sister. He was so entranced by the lit café terrace that he painted it then and there, in 1888. Today, the popular destination in Arles is called Café van Gogh.

**WHEATFIELD WITH CROWS**

This is often said to be his last work, which – with an ominous sky, crows and path to nowhere – shows his despair. In fact, he continued painting after this and wanted to show what he considered "healthy and fortifying about the countryside".

## GRAPHIC HISTORY

# VINCENT VAN GOGH

The quintessential tortured artist was only propelled to worldwide fame after his tragic death

**DR GACHET**  
The portrait of the doctor who cared for van Gogh in his final months became his most successful painting when it sold at auction, in 1990, for \$82.5 million.

The great Post-Impressionist was born in the Netherlands, but it was France where his art came to life. In Paris, he befriended artists and developed his iconic style through numerous works. But he suffered severely from depression and mental illness. He moved to the southern French town of Arles in 1888 in the hopes of recovering and establishing an artistic colony – this never succeeded, but these years were extremely prolific for van Gogh. They were also among his last, as he died in 1890 penniless and unknown.

### EXHIBITION

The EY Exhibition: Van Gogh and Britain opens at Tate Britain on 27 March. Find out more at [www.tate.org.uk](http://www.tate.org.uk)

1925

The year van Gogh's sister-in-law, Johanna, died. She had dedicated the last three and a half decades to establish his posthumous legacy, organising exhibitions and publishing Vincent's letters.

**STARRY NIGHT OVER THE RHÔNE**  
This starry night, which includes the Great Bear constellation, was painted in 1888, during a time when van Gogh was fascinated with painting at night. "It often seems to me that the night is much more alive and richly coloured than the day," he said.

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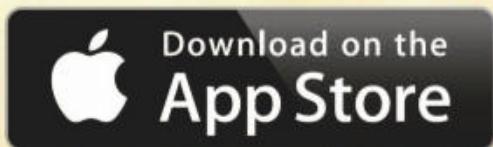
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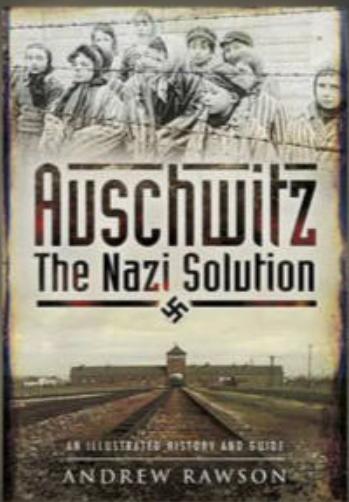
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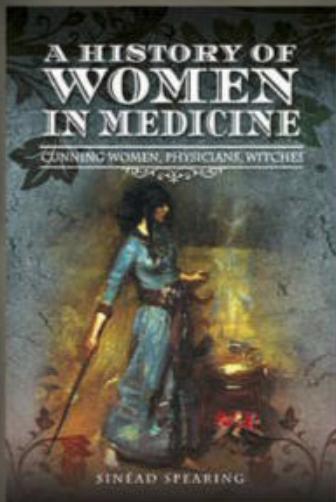
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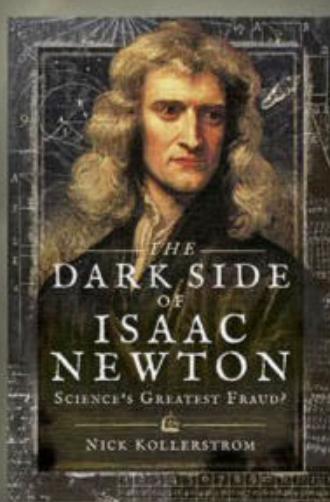
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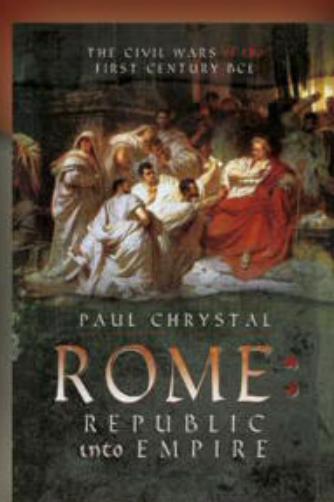
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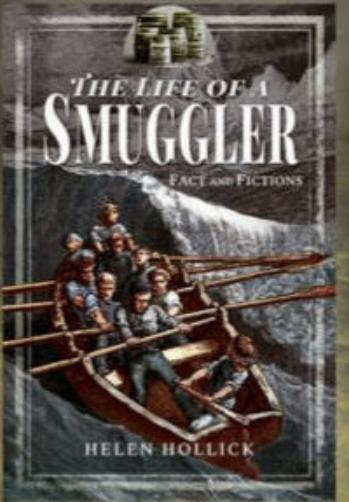
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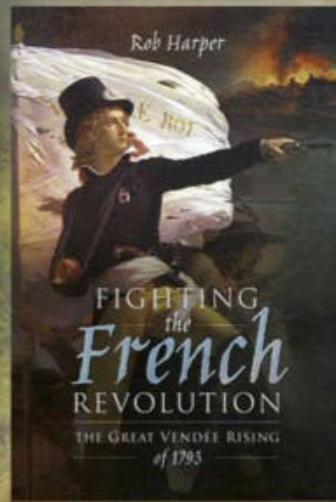
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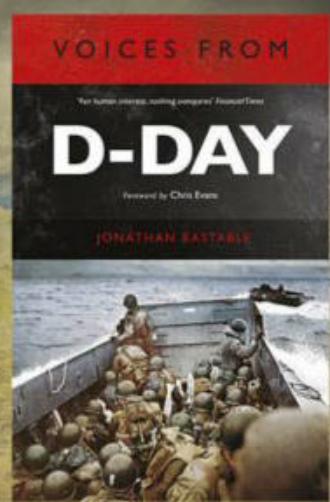
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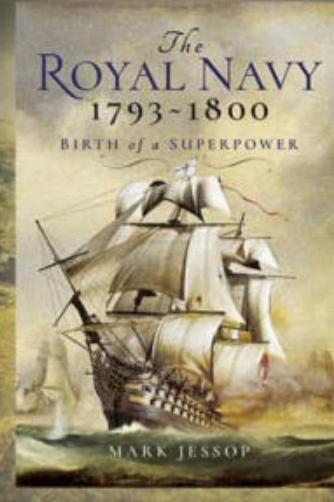
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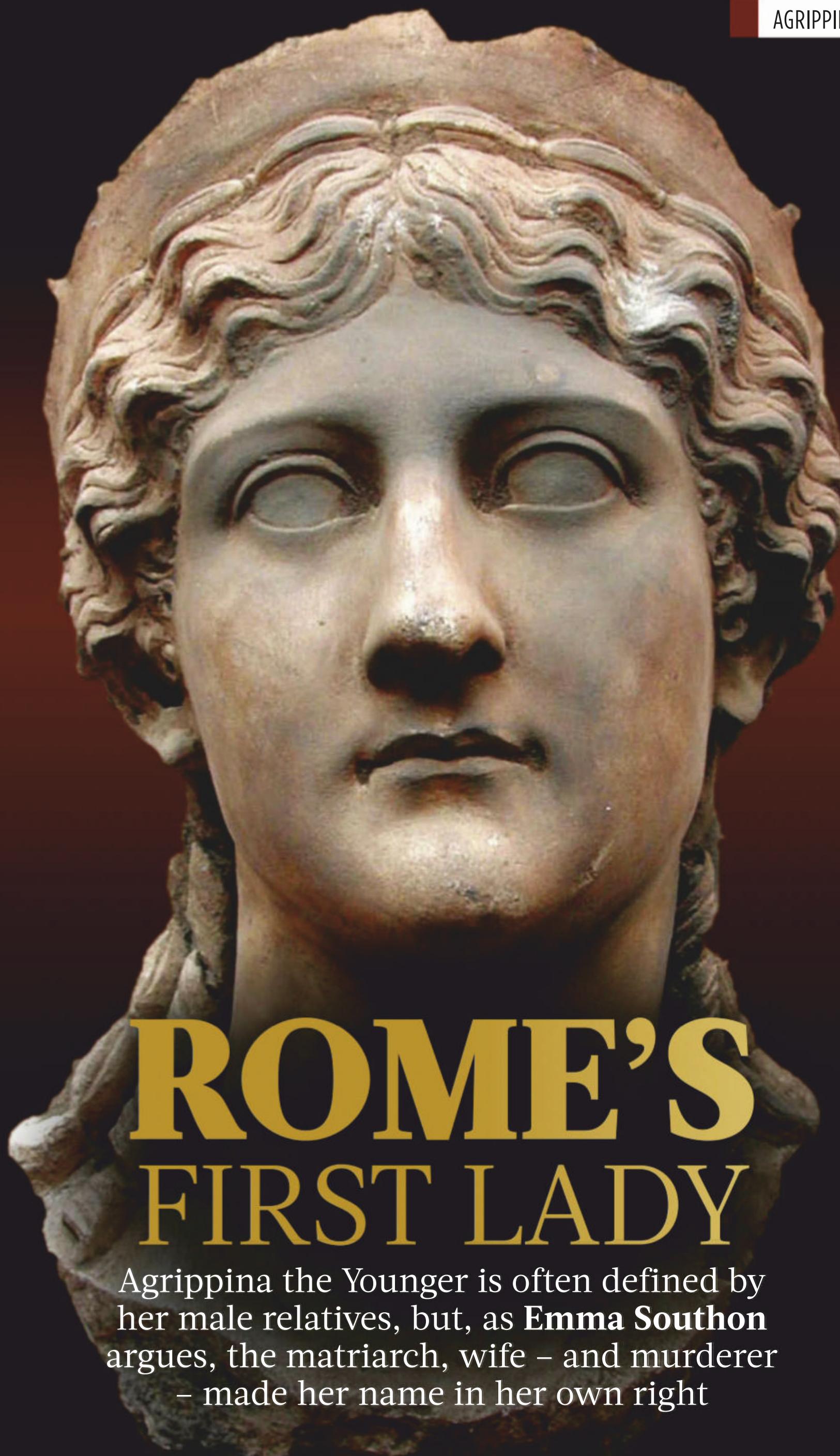
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# ROME'S FIRST LADY

Agrippina the Younger is often defined by her male relatives, but, as **Emma Southon** argues, the matriarch, wife – and murderer – made her name in her own right

**J**ulia Agrippina is best remembered now as the tyrannical mother of mad emperor Nero, or as the overbearing and murderous wife of the emperor Claudius. Rarely, she is remembered as the sister of another emperor Gaius (Caligula). She is almost never, however, remembered as a woman in her own right, free from the distorting lens of her male relatives.

But during her lifetime, Julia Agrippina, more commonly known as Agrippina the Younger, made unique and extraordinary inroads into the spaces of Roman political and social power, to the extent that she ruled for several years as her husband's equal in power. She was the first true empress of Rome, although you'll struggle to hear anyone refer to her as such.

Born into the Roman ruling family of the first century, the Julio-Claudians, Agrippina was destined to be at the centre of Roman power, but more likely, as a woman, just to the side. Her mother, Vipsania Agrippina (Agrippina the Elder) was the granddaughter of the deified first emperor Augustus, while her father Germanicus was both the adopted son of the emperor Tiberius and biological grandson of Mark Antony. They were for a time Rome's most beloved couple. Before Agrippina was 20, though, both her parents were dead and it was widely believed that Tiberius had murdered them both.

### WHIM OF THE EMPERORS

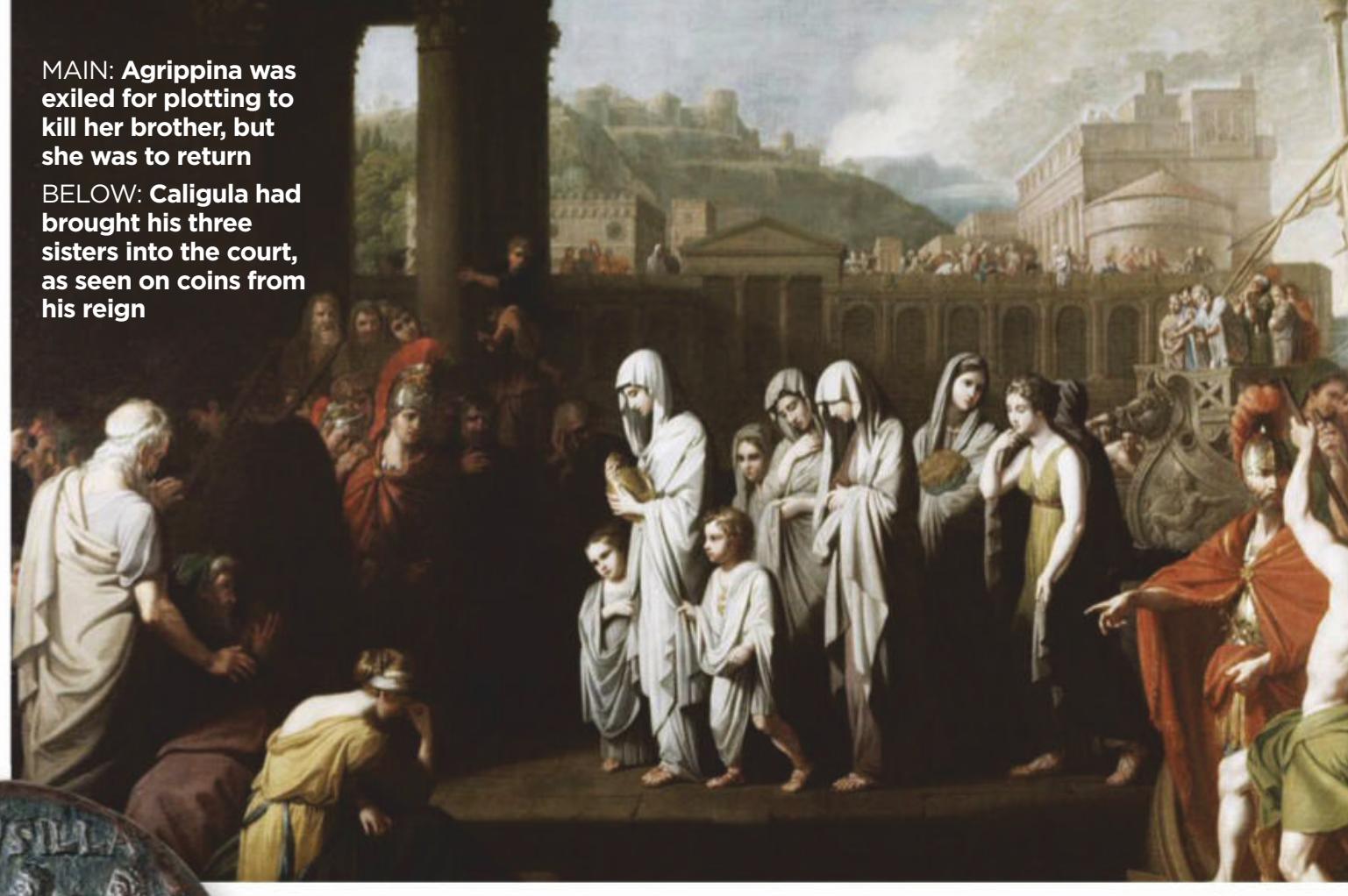
During this time, little is known about Agrippina the Younger, except that she was married at the age of about 13 to her much older cousin, Gnaeus Domitius Ahenobarbus. Her situation changed when she was around 22 when Tiberius died and her brother Gaius, who would be known as Caligula, became emperor.

His first priority was to rehabilitate his family's reputation after decades of being maligned by Tiberius, and so he pulled all three of his sisters into the centre of the Roman state. He showered them with all the honours the state could give, including giving them the rights of Vestal Virgins. In return, and following the death of their middle sister, Agrippina and the youngest Livia were caught in the early stages of a plot to murder him.

This is the first time that the sources show us an Agrippina who is an active agent in her own life, when she is around 24 years old, has already been married for a decade, and given birth to her only child. Until this point, she is all but invisible, but suddenly, in AD 39, we catch a glimpse of a woman doing something remarkably bold to change the world around her. The details of the plot are unclear – and some historians dispute there was ever a plot at all – but the events after it was uncovered suggest that Agrippina, Livia and Drusilla's

MAIN: Agrippina was exiled for plotting to kill her brother, but she was to return

BELOW: Caligula had brought his three sisters into the court, as seen on coins from his reign



## “Agrippina burst into public life in a manner that shocked Rome: she married her uncle”

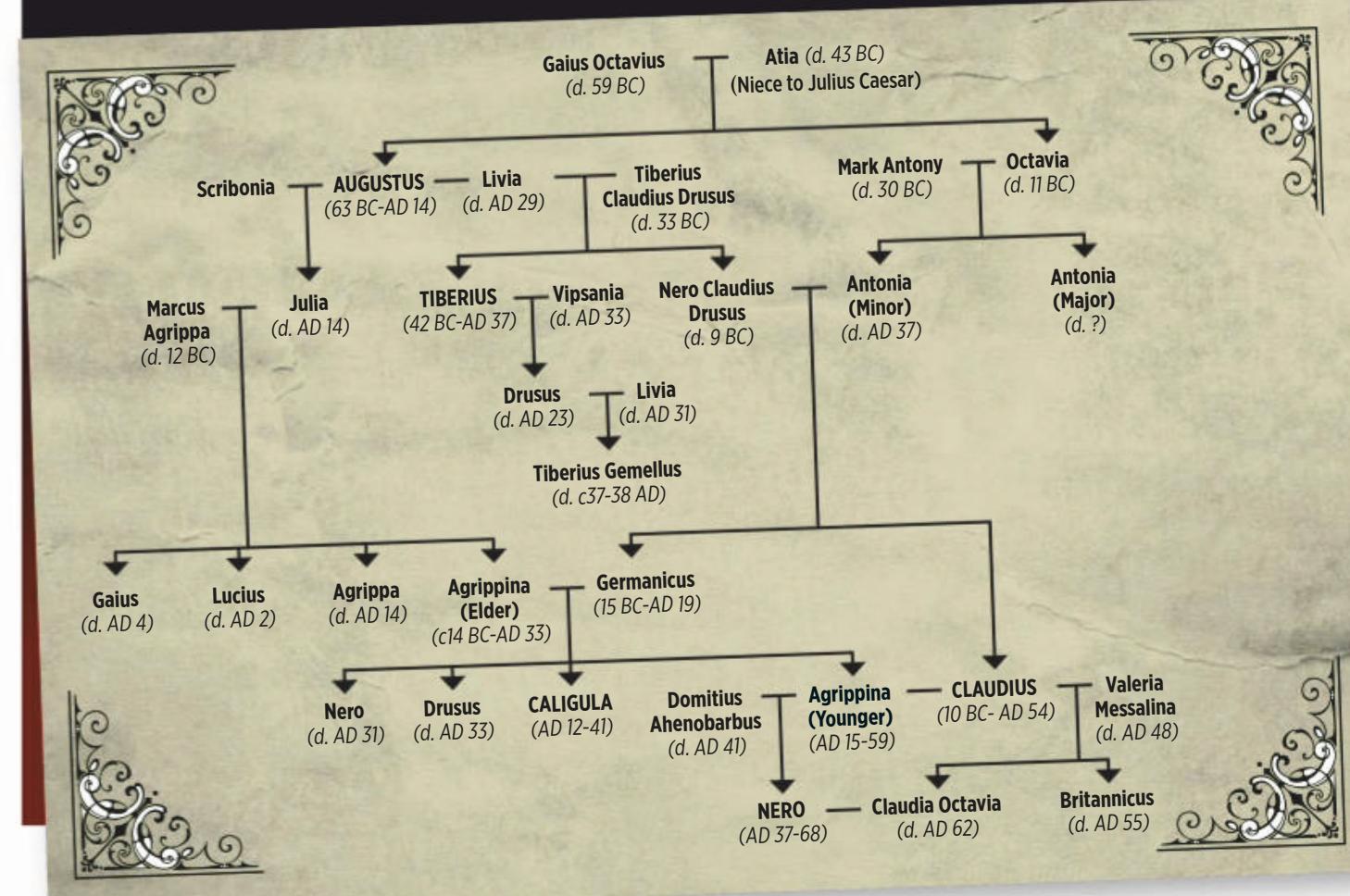
widower Lepidus planned a coup. Agrippina endured an embarrassing trial, during which her love letters were read aloud, and was sent into exile with her sister on an island in the Mediterranean. As a final humiliation, she was made to carry the ashes of the executed Lepidus

with her. Whatever had been planned, the consequences suggest it was big.

During her exile, Agrippina's husband died of dropsy and her brother died of a sword to the throat. In early AD 41, a coup led by the Praetorian Guard brought in a

### MEET AGRIPPINA'S FAMILY

The Julio-Claudian dynasty plotted against, murdered and married each other



new administration in the imperial palace, replacing Gaius, who was assassinated, with Agrippina's paternal uncle, Claudius. As a man in his 50s best known for his physical disabilities and academic interests, he was not a natural choice for the political and military leader of the empire. He was, however, fond of his nieces and one of his first acts was to allow Agrippina to return to Rome and be reunited with her son. He offered her a quiet, safe life as a minor royal.

## CAUSING OUTRAGE

This quiet life was not to be, primarily due to the presence of Agrippina's son. He had been named Lucius Domitius Ahenobarbus after his father, but everyone in Rome knew him as the youngest descendent of the divine Augustus. By the time she was 26, Agrippina was the lone surviving member of her family and her son the only male left carrying the bloodline. This had two effects: it made them deeply dangerous to Claudius's rule, and it filled Agrippina with a righteous belief that her son deserved to take his great-great-grandfather's throne.

Nonetheless, she stayed out of the public eye as far as possible. That was until Claudius's notoriously promiscuous wife Messalina was

executed in AD 48 after being caught in a bizarre bigamous marriage. Then Agrippina burst into public life in a manner that shocked and horrified Rome: she married Claudius, her own uncle.

This outraged later Roman commentators whose morals were offended by such an act and such a marriage. Claudius was forced to have the incest laws changed in order for the marriage to be allowed. Why he chose to marry his niece is forever a mystery. One source claims Agrippina seduced him, using her familial access to him to manipulate his weakness for women. In this version, Agrippina is an aggressive temptress,

## DID YOU KNOW?

Agrippina's second husband, the prominent former consul Gaius Sallustius Crispus Passienus, died after several years of marriage. There were later rumours that she had poisoned him.



Agrippina was committed to seeing her only son, Nero, on the throne



willing to sell her body to her own uncle in exchange for power. In another source, though, one of Claudius's freedmen offers Agrippina as a prize while others present their own women, touting their fecundity and their good families. >



### Agrippina the Elder (mother)

Seen as the sole biological descendent of the first emperor, Augustus, she was the only child born of the general Marcus Agrippa and Julia, Augustus's daughter. She had six children and after her widowhood, tried to advance her eldest sons in Rome. She and they were exiled and executed in mysterious circumstances by the emperor Tiberius.



### Germanicus (father)

Germanicus was the grandson of Mark Antony and Octavia. He was known as a great general for his successes in Germany – being granted a military triumph – and had a promising political career. He died suddenly while in Syria and it was widely believed that Tiberius had poisoned him. He maintained his immense popularity even after his death.



### Gaius Caligula (brother)

The youngest son Gaius survived the executions that claimed his mother and brothers, so inherited the empire from Tiberius in AD 37, before he was 25. Although he only ruled for four years, he has become infamous for his capricious, sadistic and perverted nature. When the Praetorian Guard launched a coup, Gaius, his wife and daughter were assassinated.



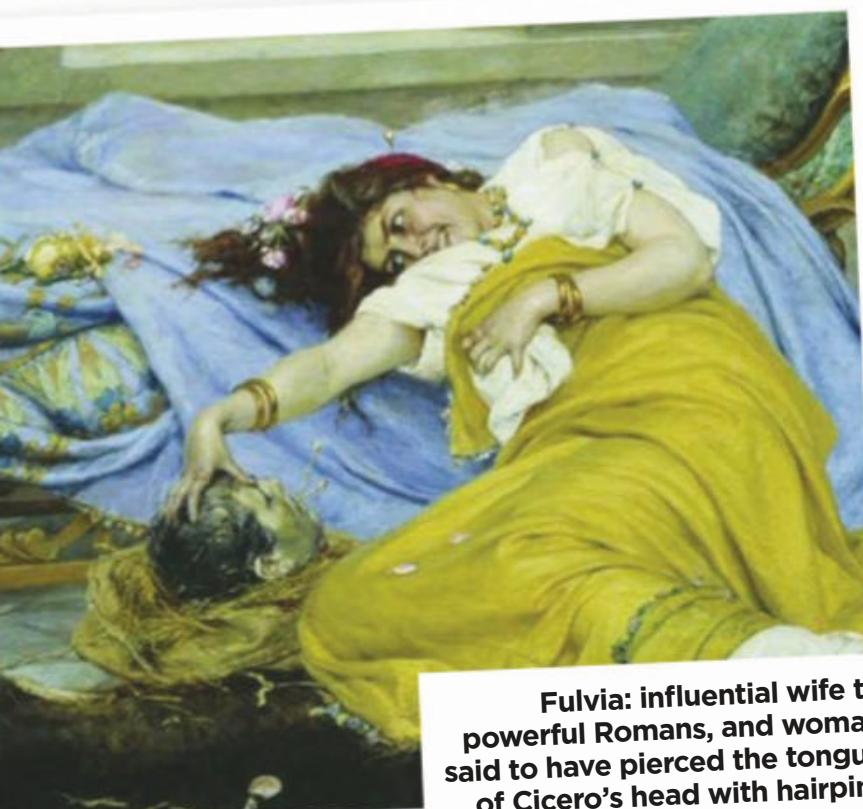
### Nero (son)

Agrippina's only child. After a tumultuous childhood, he became emperor in AD 54. The early years of his reign were seen as successful, but his behaviour deteriorated. His reign is associated with cruelty and numerous executions. He was overthrown in AD 68 after several generals revolted against him. Having fled Rome, he committed suicide.



### Claudius (uncle/husband)

As he suffered from a stammer, uncontrolled emotional responses and a propensity to drool, he had no political career until he became emperor in AD 41. His rule was initially tumultuous and authoritarian, but became more peaceful after his marriage to his fourth wife: Agrippina. She allegedly poisoned him with a mushroom.



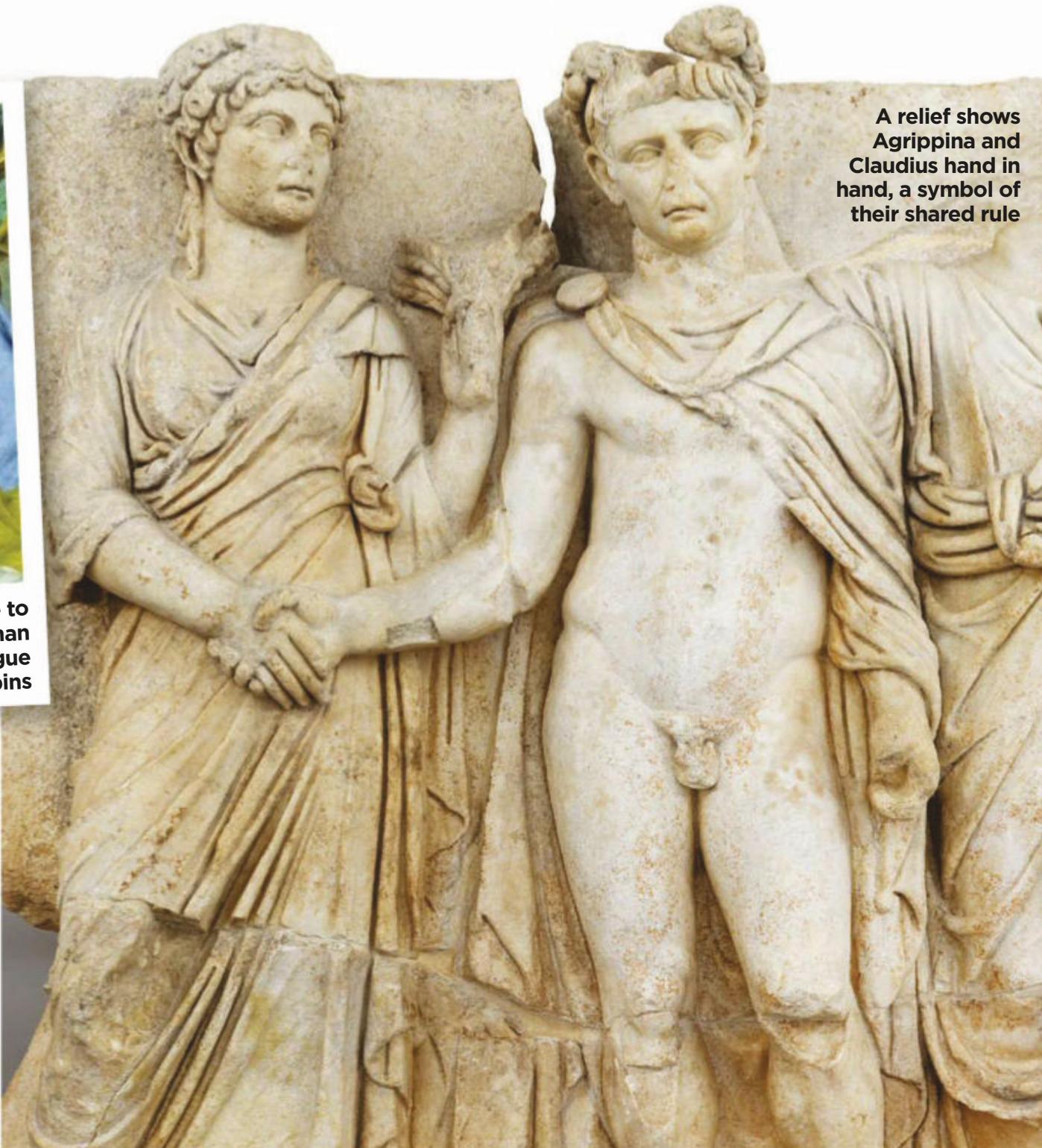
Fulvia: influential wife to powerful Romans, and woman said to have pierced the tongue of Cicero's head with hairpins

## WHAT WAS THE LEGAL POSITION OF ROMAN WOMEN?

Agrippina went far beyond what was allowed

Legally, women in late Republican and early imperial Rome were perpetual minors. They were not allowed to sign contracts or engage in any legal activities themselves. Although they could own property, they could not buy or sell it without permission from a male guardian. By default, this was their father, but it could be their husband, brother, family friend or even a magistrate. Guardianships existed due to the belief that women had weak judgement (*infirmitas consilii*), which meant they were unable to make rational or good decisions by themselves. Certain women could be freed from guardianship as a reward for excellence. Under Augustus, women who bore three or more children were entitled to be emancipated.

The restrictions on women's public activities loosened during the imperial period, and there are many examples of women running businesses without interference from men. However, the legal and cultural taboos against women in politics and the military never weakened. These were always considered exclusively male spheres. Women were unable to vote during the Republic and legally unable to even enter the Senate house at any time. Women who tried to engage in political life were universally reviled throughout Roman history as monsters.



A relief shows Agrippina and Claudius hand in hand, a symbol of their shared rule

**“Unlike the wives of emperors before and after her, Agrippina was her husband’s partner in rule”**

In this version, Agrippina is a passive bystander, little more than a walking bloodline. These are both narrative tropes, not real life. Instead, Agrippina was a mother in her 30s, hugely powerful on the basis of her name, money and connections. She was neither a passive womb, nor a young temptress.

It is Agrippina's behaviour once she was Claudius's wife that makes her quite so extraordinary. Unlike the wives of emperors before and after her, she was, in all ways, her husband's partner in rule. Livia – Augustus's wife and Tiberius's mother – had previously been the model of a Roman woman. But she had female power, amounting to influence over her male relatives who exerted the real, tangible power. And she only used it in private spaces, never trying to enter public life herself. But influence wasn't enough for Agrippina. She wanted real power.

One of Agrippina's first acts was to found a town at the place of her birth in Germany and name it after herself. Originally named Colonia Claudia Ara Agrippinensis, its name was eventually shortened to its modern name: Cologne. She donned the colours gold and purple – colours only available to the emperor – and sat beside her husband in front of the Roman imperial standards. She caused outrage among the great and good by putting herself in public spaces and forcing men to acknowledge that a woman ruled over them. She became a visible partner in the emperor's power that was both unique and highly disturbing to male Roman onlookers. She even wrote and published her own autobiography, the only Roman woman to have ever completed such an audacious public act.

For five years, Agrippina enjoyed life as Claudius's empress. These years were notably

more peaceful, stable and successful than the eight years of his reign prior to their marriage. Of the 35 named senators executed by Claudius during his reign, just four occurred during the years of Agrippina's influence. There were no more coup attempts from the armies, or significant violence in Rome. All the while, Agrippina and Claudius both groomed Nero to be the next emperor, preparing him with political offices and honorary titles. It seemed that the two would have a long reign and a peaceful succession.

## POWER OF HER OWN

This illusion was shattered when, in October AD 54, Agrippina murdered her husband with a poisoned mushroom and declared her 16-year-old son, under the name Nero, as emperor in his place. Her motivation is entirely obscure. The sources almost unanimously paint her as a tyrant, desperate to cling to power and terrified of her stepson Britannicus being promoted above Nero. This last fear may well have been true. Agrippina's primary goal in life appears to have been that Nero would survive to rule; that her mother's family, not Claudius's, would keep the imperial throne.

Her extreme act proved to be successful. Nero was acclaimed emperor peacefully and his reign would go on to last 13 years. Initially, Claudius's death was nothing but good news for Agrippina. As wife of the emperor she acted as his partner, but was always the junior partner. With Nero ascending as a teenager, though, she was now effectively his regent, placing her as the senior partner. That Agrippina was Nero's equal in power is evident in the iconography on the coins and friezes from this time. Both their faces are depicted on coinage, and in several they face one another, their heads of equal size and equal importance. In one sculpture, Agrippina is depicted as the personification of fertile Rome, crowning her young son.

Yet within months, Nero began to attempt to enforce more traditional gender roles in the palace. He wanted his wife, the teenage Octavia, and his mother to remain private and silent. He did not want his mother to be present at political events and, in order to make his point clear, he publicly humiliated her multiple times in front of foreign delegations and Roman officials. He even had her removed from the palace to curb her power.

Agrippina, however, had a strong sense of her own abilities and five years of experience



ABOVE: One of the coins showing Nero and Agrippina in an equal position

RIGHT: Nero examined Agrippina's body and supposedly remarked on how beautiful she was



Nero's creative attempt to murder his mother is seen in the highly stylised *The Shipwreck of Agrippina* by Gustave Wertheimer



running an empire, so she made sure her voice was going to be heard.

## HOLDING HER GROUND

In AD 59, Nero lost patience with hearing his mother's voice. He had fallen in love with an unsuitable woman named Poppaea, and wanted to be free to marry her. He also knew that men who listened to women could only be vilified as weak and feminine. As Agrippina was still popular, he was desperate to maintain public support so decided the best way was to stage an accident. He had a trick boat built that would sink with Agrippina on board, drowning her in the bay off the town of Baiae.

But it appears Nero was unaware of her strength as a swimmer. She survived the sinking attempt, which included a lead ceiling almost falling on her, and made it to shore with an injured arm. Hearing the news, Nero panicked

and sent three men to her villa to murder her. Agrippina died looking her killers in the eye and holding her ground. Called a traitor, she was denied a state funeral and buried in an unmarked grave. She was 43. Nero lost his popularity, and his reign never recovered.

Agrippina was a cold-blooded murderer, and an excellent ruler. She oversaw a decade of peaceful Roman rule and opened the doors to the end of a dynasty. She learned from her predecessors how to be successful, and taught her son how to be ruthless. Truly, she was the first empress of Rome. ☀

## GET HOOKED

### BOOK

Dr Emma Southon's *Agrippina: Empress, Exile, Hustler, Whore* (Unbound, 2018) is not only a compelling biography of the woman herself, but of the Julio-Claudian dynasty and the empire.



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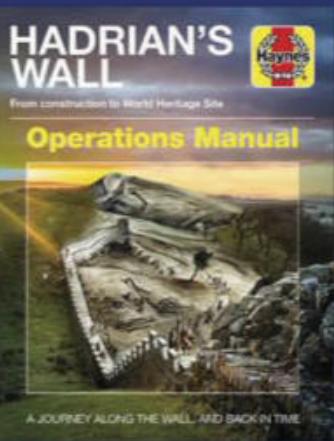
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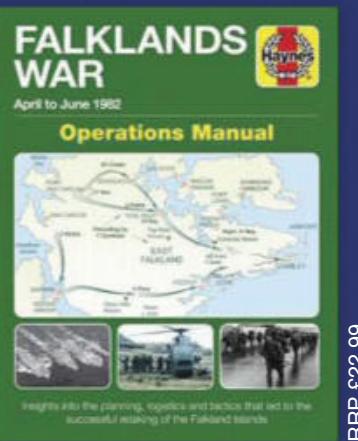
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Interview: Paul McGuinness

**T**he camera is only a by-product for me. I've never looked at anything through my lens. I've looked at it through my own eyes and my own emotions. As a photographer, you see first before you think of cameras and film because your eyes are the first on the scene, before you get your camera out of the bag or off your shoulder.

It began when I was attached to a photographic unit during my two years' National Service with the Air Force. I didn't want to do it, naturally because I never liked anything to do with authorities. You know, the last thing you want at 18 is to go in the Army or Air Force and be shouted at and have your hair cut off.

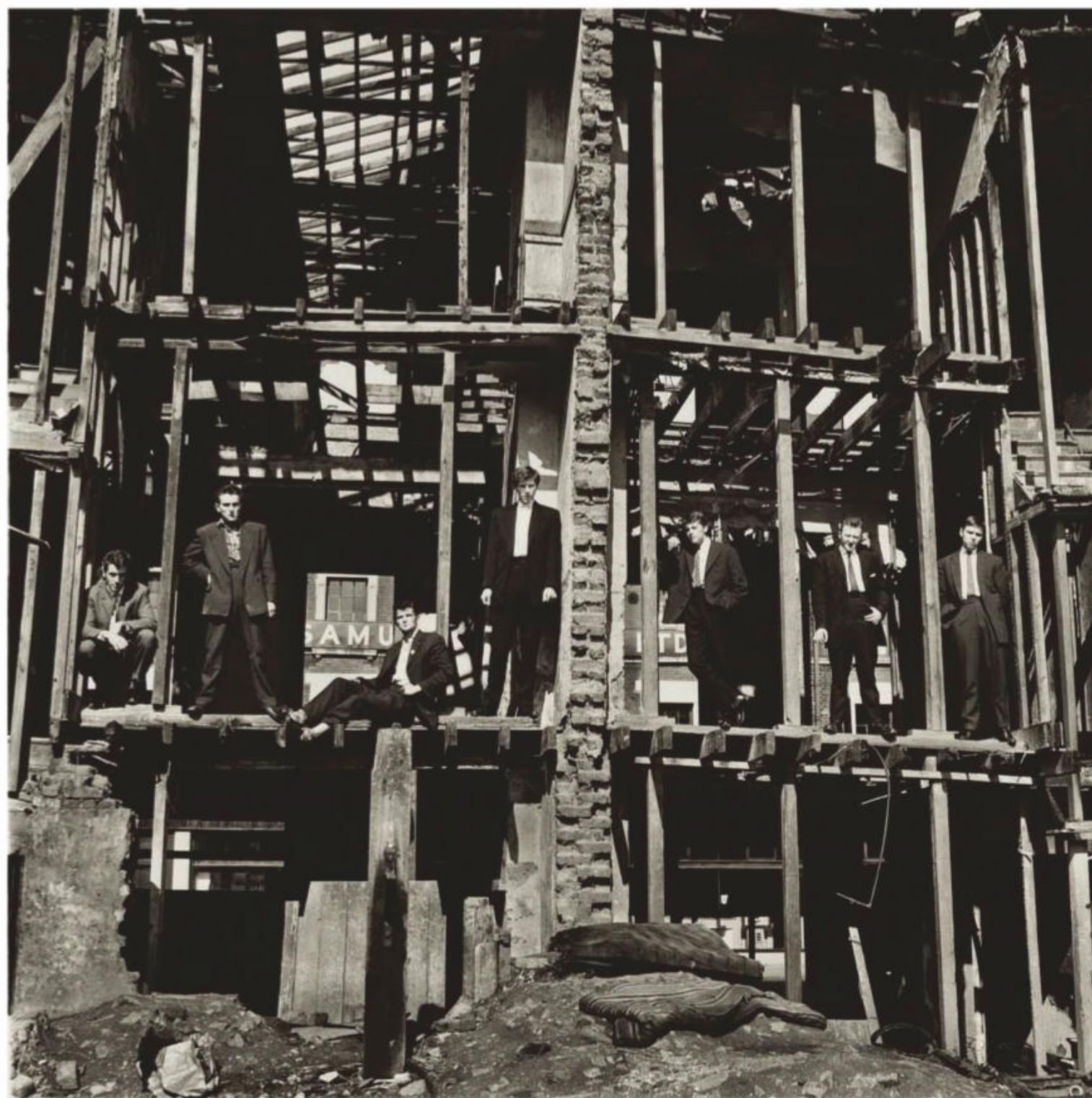
I spent a miserable year in Egypt, which was like a prison camp, and then went to the Mau Mau War in 1955. In Kenya, I started having nice things to eat and nice experiences – we had a swimming pool on the camp. And then I went to Cyprus for the last six months of my National Service. I'd walk across the road from our tented lines and swim in the Mediterranean.

But I couldn't read the theory paper in photography. I never went to school much as a boy and left at 15 to work on a steam train because my father had just died. I had to step into his shoes and earn a living. I grew up very fast and I knew which side my bread was buttered on, but I couldn't read or write properly. I had no education, no qualifications. (Very embarrassing really, as now I've got all the qualifications in the world in an honourable way because I've got all kinds of university doctorates.)

I couldn't read the theory paper and I just thought, 'Oh, sod this'. So I wasn't actually practicing photography in the Air Force. I was sitting at a bulk-processing machine during night shifts, printing aerial reconnaissance pictures for the intelligence services. I failed my trade test to become a photographer, so I left with a complimentary rank of Leading Aircraftsman.

I came out of the Air Force, and I brought a camera back with me, which a pilot bought for me in Aden. I gave him £30 for this brand-new Rolleicord camera, in a brand-new case and everything, but I didn't seem to realise what use it could be to me. I pawned it. My mother got £5 and got it out of the pawn shop for me.

Since I was a boy, I lived in Finsbury Park, North London. The boys I grew up with were quite bad – tearaways and criminals – and one day, they said to me,



### THE GUV'NORS IN THEIR SUNDAY SUITS, FINSBURY PARK, LONDON 1958

▲ "The boys were in a gang war... there was a huge fight, and a policeman tried to stop it. One of the boys from the other gang stabbed the policeman and killed him, at the end of my street in Finsbury Park"



### NEAR CHECKPOINT CHARLIE, BERLIN 1961

► "The reason I went to Berlin was purely speculative, private and personal – and it paid off. I flew to Tempelhof Airport, Hitler's old airport. I bought a round-trip ticket for £43, so I had to live in Berlin for £23 for a week"



AMERICAN TROOPS  
LOOKING ACROSS THE  
WALL, BERLIN 1961

▲ "I came home and won an award for my photography. Then *The Observer* gave me a contract for 15 guineas a week"

"I had a brand-new Rolleicord camera, but I didn't realise what use it could be to me so I pawned it. My mother got £5 and got it out for me"



### THE MURDER OF A TURKISH SHEPHERD, CYPRUS CIVIL WAR 1964

▲ “I found war exhilarating, until I started to draw some conclusions that, hang on a minute, this is not right to feel like this because people are dying. I think most war correspondents kick off like that. It’s a bit druggie in a way. I’ve never taken drugs in my life, but I can remember the drugginess of war.”

‘Why don’t you go and get that camera and take some pictures of us?’ I got the camera out of my chest of drawers and took a photograph of them standing in a derelict building. The boys were later involved in a gang war with another bunch of guys at the end of my road. I took my pictures to *The Observer* and overnight in 1958, I was offered every job in England, even television.

I left my job at this little studio in Mayfair and started doing freelance work for *The Observer*. In 1961, I bought an air ticket on my own back and went to the Berlin Wall when it was being built. I had seen a photograph of an East German soldier jumping over the wire into the West, and that triggered my mind. I said to myself, ‘Why don’t you go to Berlin? It looks as if it’s all exciting, you could do something there.’

It was the turning point of my life, the first decision I made in my life where I had to use my own money. I only had £70 in the bank. It was a huge gamble, being newly married and living in a dump with no prospects, but it paid off. For the rest of my life, I traded on these instincts. If I had an idea, I would go

### BIAFRA 1968

► “It’s the worst war I covered. There were a million people starving to death. Everywhere you went you saw starving, dying children on the roadside, in buildings, in school complexes. It was the hardest thing in the world to look at, knowing you had your own family at home who had all the food in the world.”





through with it and that's how I became what I am. I had this natural instinct and the confidence to do it – you don't want to fail and come back with your tail between your legs.

One day, in 1964, the visual editor at *The Observer* looked at me, kind of held his breath and said, 'Would you consider going to cover the civil war in Cyprus?' I couldn't believe what he was saying and I said I'd love to go. Since I was stationed in Cyprus during my National Service, I knew the area where the battles were going on.

I felt privileged to be there. I was in the city of Limassol when a big battle broke out and all the other press had gone on some jaunt on the other side of the

island, so couldn't get in. I was alone, a novice in warfare, a novice on the ground in a combat situation. I was running around like a mad hare because guns were going off, witnessing things I'd never seen before like dead people lying in the streets. It was my baptism of fire, really.

One day in a battle in a place called Gaziveran, I could see an old lady coming down the road and a British soldier trying to coax her faster. She had two sticks – like shepherd's sticks – and was going to get killed. I had a friend look after my cameras and I ran across the road and picked this old girl up. She was about 80 and weighed nothing. I swept her away to safety. But I'm not

there as a Samaritan, I'm there as a photographer. It's not my duty to risk my life to pick other people up.

In between my journeying all over this globe – including seeing the Biafran War and Vietnam in the 1960s – I was always aware of never forgetting where I came from, and never forgetting there were wars nearer home. And it wasn't just Northern Ireland. There were wars in England, without guns and bullets. There were social wars, wars to do with poverty, bad housing, and the way handicapped people were treated.

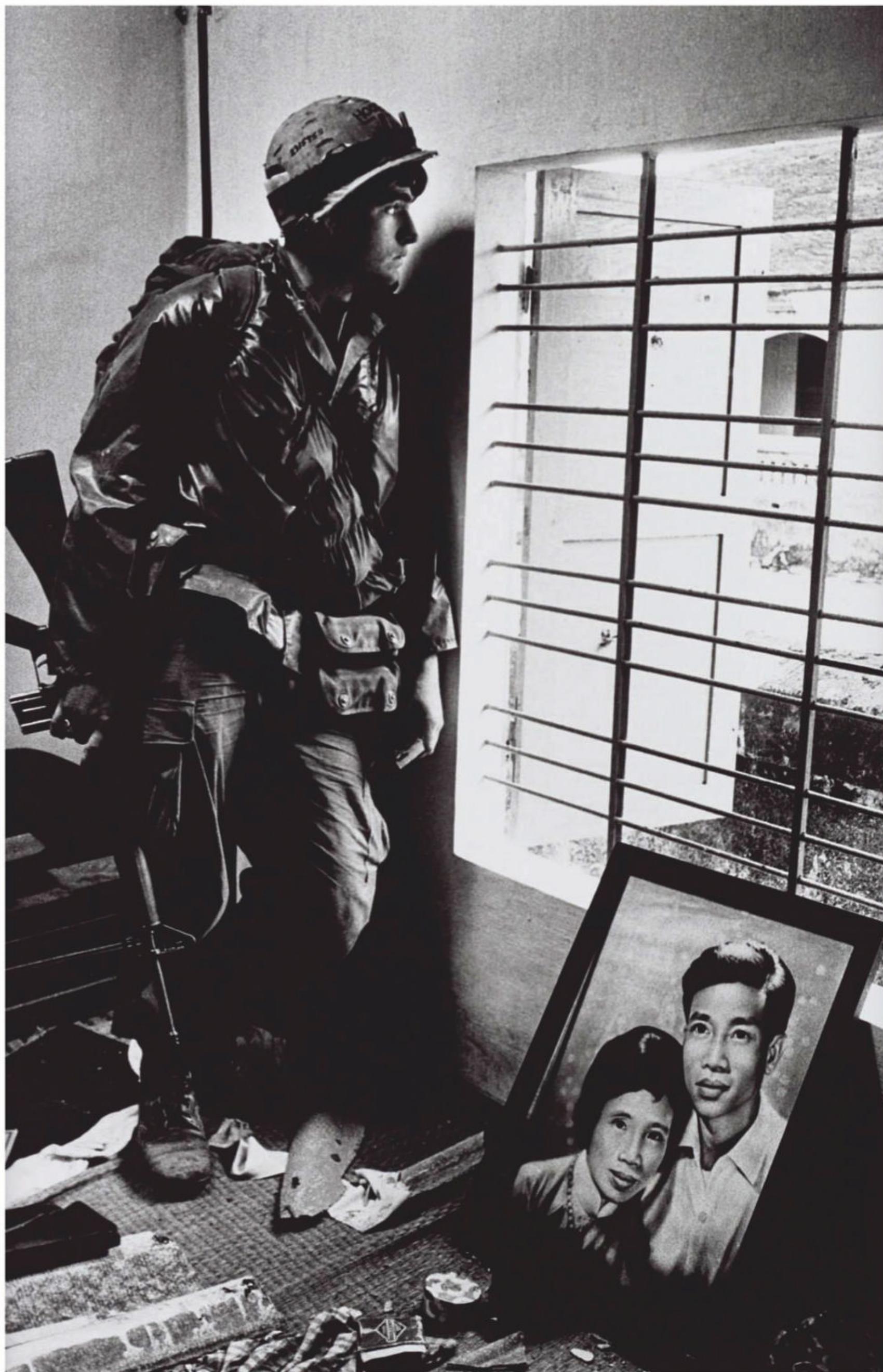
People in the north of England were the backbone of this country. They made England what it was during the Industrial Revolution, with their bloody hard work, and they've never been rewarded for it. That's why they voted for Brexit.

I grew up in a situation of poverty myself. Me, my brother, my mother and father, we all slept in the same bed at night. My father died of chronic asthma and there was never any central heating or lavatory in the house. I know the smell of it and it still angers me today. I can never really feel comfortable in my

#### **GRENADE THROWER, HUE, VIETNAM 1968**

▲ "I have a guilt problem about making a name from photography, knowing some people in them have died and couldn't be helped. All in all, I've been dealing with honesty and integrity, but I know I've been walking a very fine tightrope"

**"I ran around like a mad hare – guns were going off and dead people were lying in the streets"**



**THE BATTLE FOR  
THE CITY OF HUE,  
SOUTH VIETNAM,  
US MARINE  
INSIDE CIVILIAN  
HOUSE 1968**

◀ “Vietnam was on such a scale, you didn’t know where to go. You checked in with the American army and every day, there was a five o’clock briefing of which nobody ever believed. They were always talking on the up about the day’s events but many of the people that they killed were often just farmers going about their daily lives in the rice fields. So there was a lot of hypocrisy and a lot of lies”



### NORTHERN IRELAND, THE BOGSIDE, LONDONDERRY 1971

▲ "What it all comes down to is that I never chose photography, it chose me"

own house because I think I've got more than many of the people I've seen in my life. Nobody should live like this and there are still too many people living like this today in this country. My photography has taught me many things, but whatever I've achieved, whatever honours I receive, I don't wear my laurels comfortably. They hurt.

This exhibition at Tate Britain is the pinnacle of my whole life's work. I've got 270 prints going on the wall and I am absolutely adamant that no-one's going to walk past and not go away feeling something about what they've seen. I don't know whether I've wasted my time because there's still terrible wars and they seem to have got worse. Looking back on it all, I think, what difference has it made? Not very much, really.

### LOCAL BOYS IN BRADFORD 1972

▼ "It's the politicians who need to look at my pictures in a profound and deep way. They're the people who create these things and they're the people who can stop these things, and they don't"

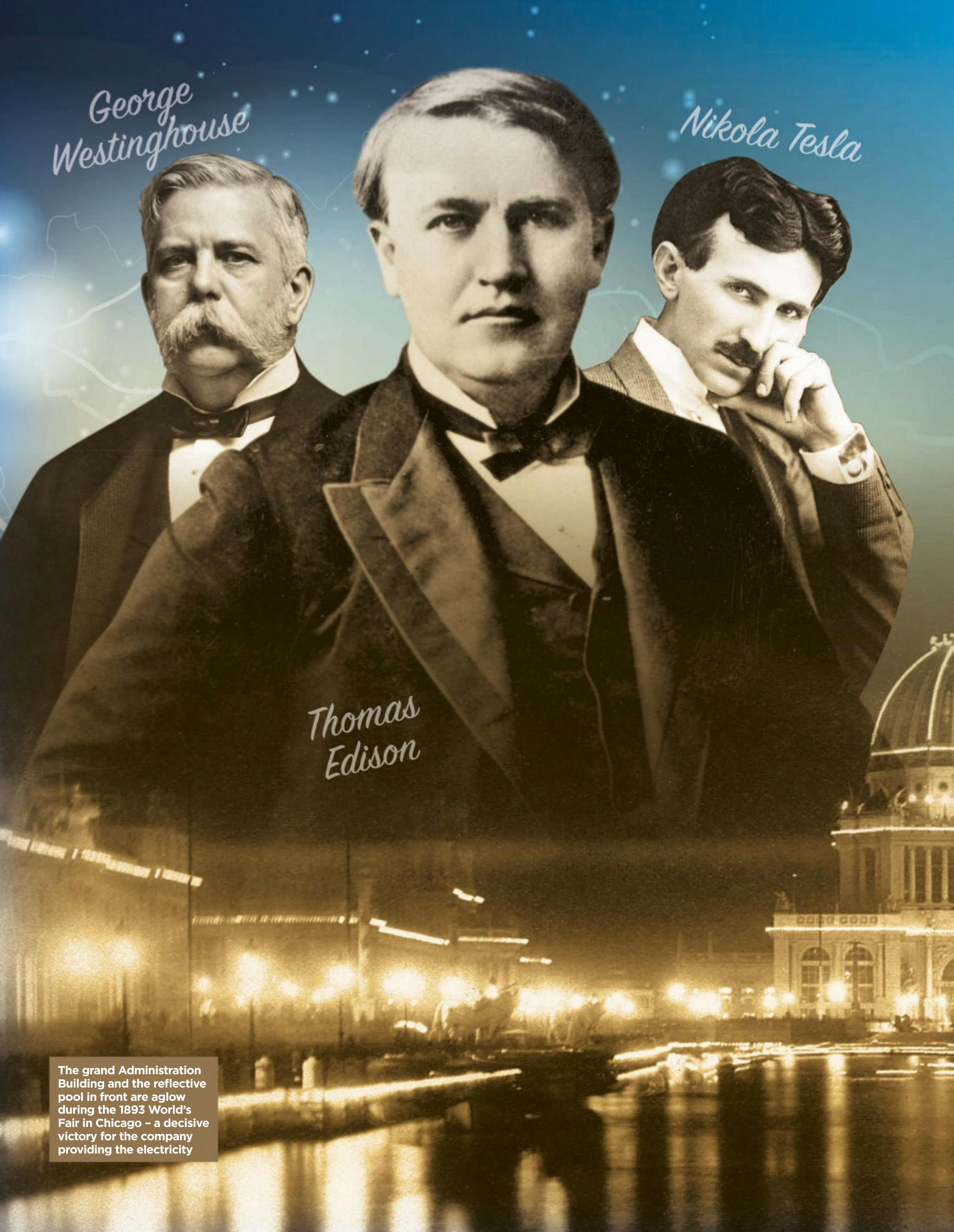


### GET HOOKED



#### EXHIBITION

The major exhibition Don McCullin runs at Tate Britain, London, from 5 February to 6 May 2019. It showcases hundreds of photographs from the last 60 years of McCullin's extraordinary career, from his war work to his scenes of poverty in England.



George  
Westinghouse

Thomas  
Edison

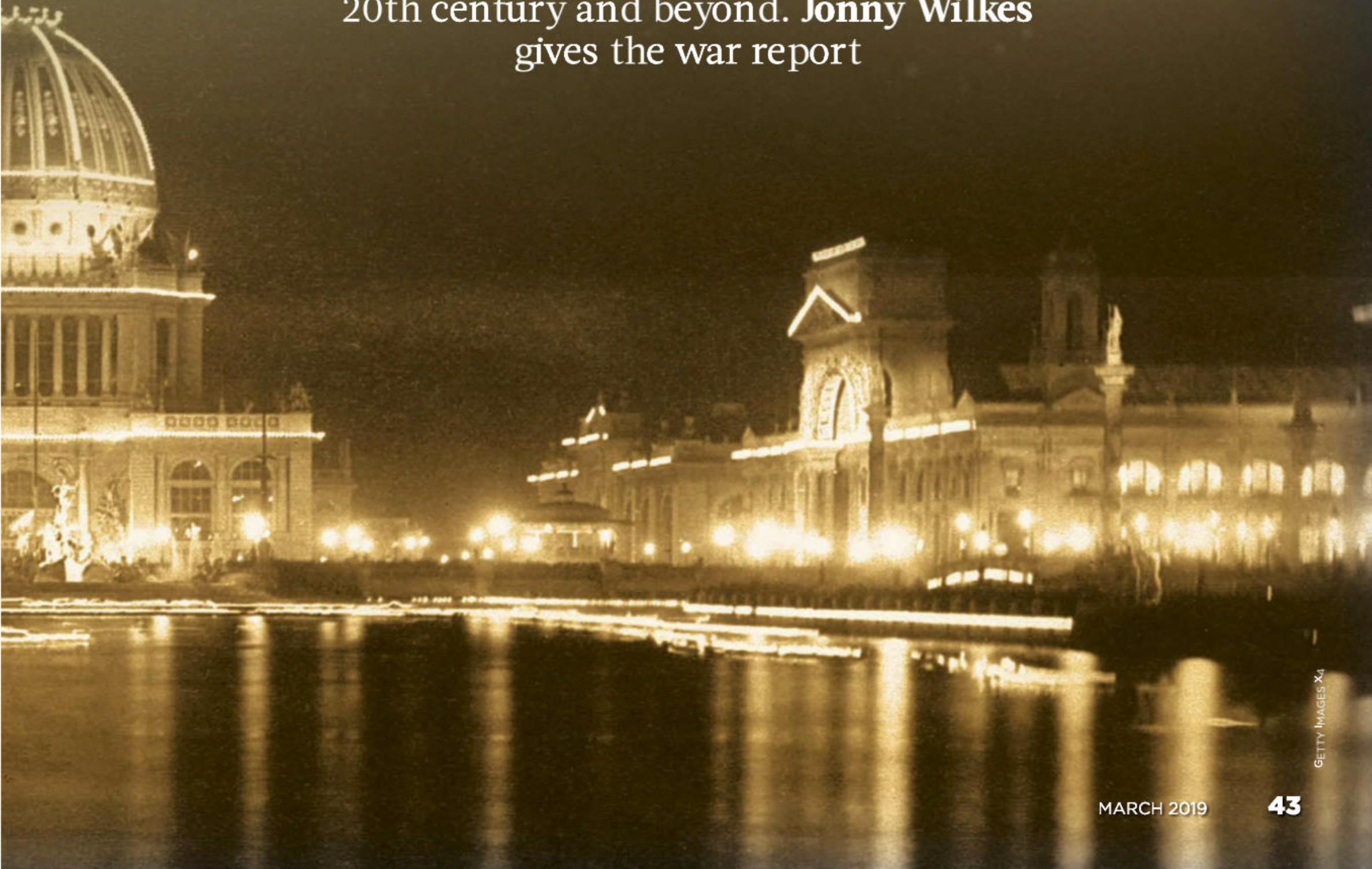
Nikola Tesla

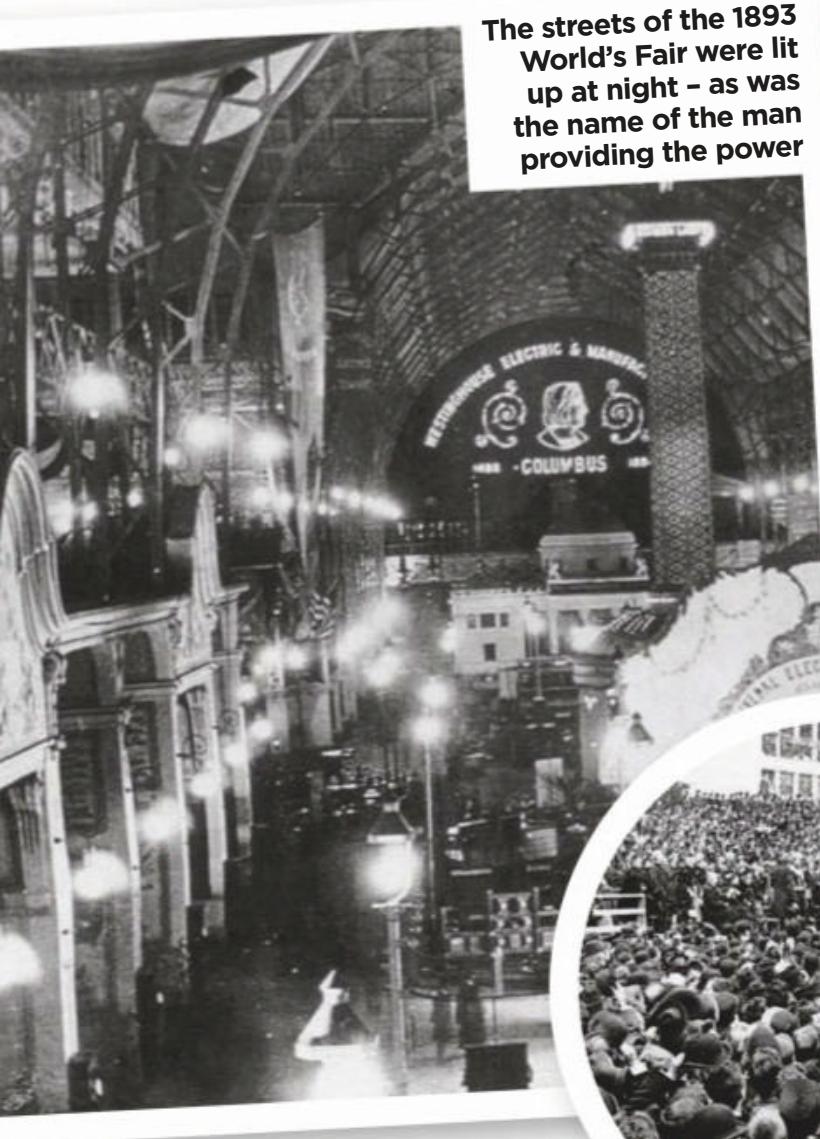
The grand Administration Building and the reflective pool in front are aglow during the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago - a decisive victory for the company providing the electricity

# AC/DC

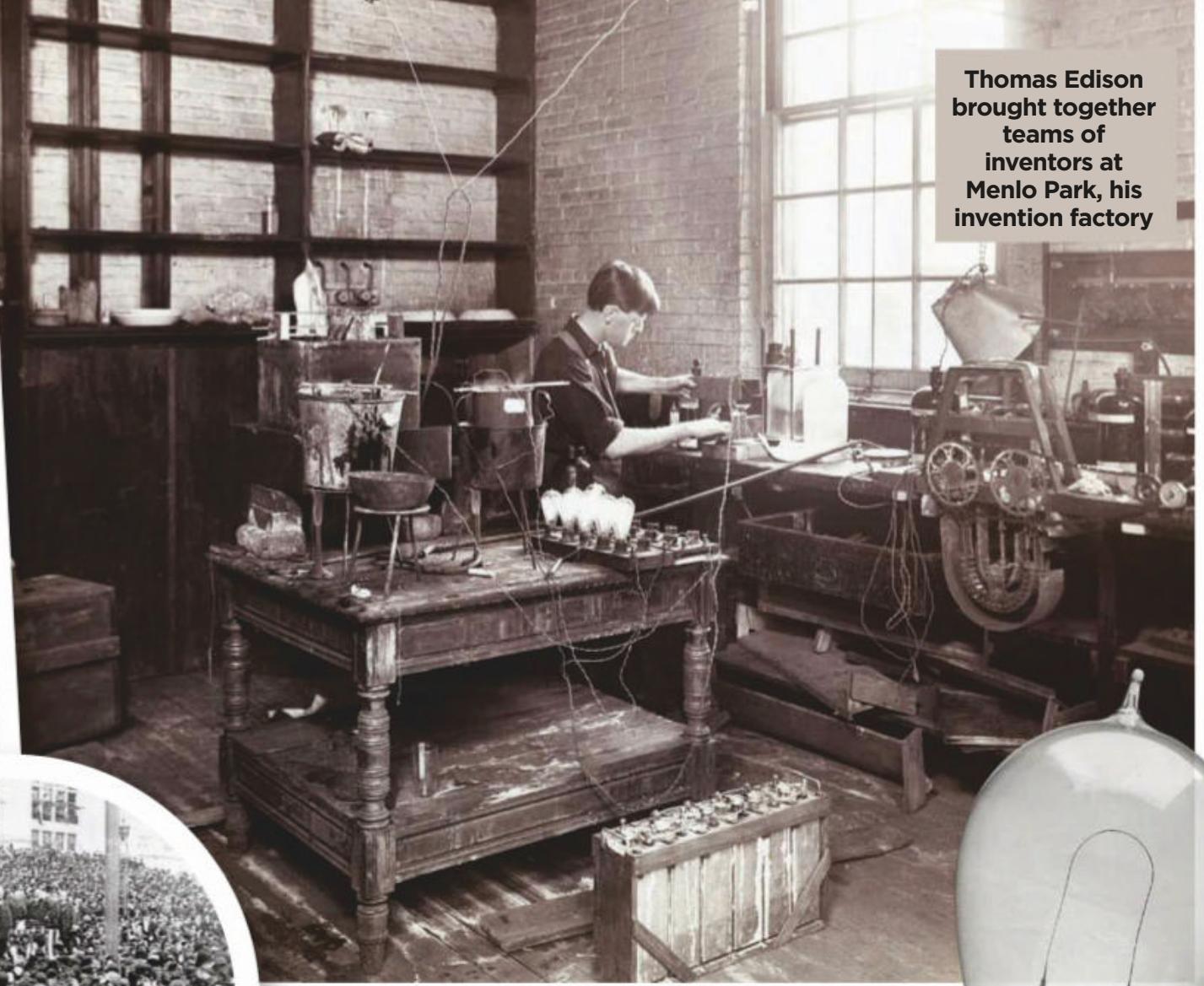
## THE WAR OF THE CURRENTS

Thomas Edison, George Westinghouse and Nikola Tesla – brilliant inventors and industrialists who battled in the early days of electricity to power humankind into the 20th century and beyond. **Jonny Wilkes** gives the war report





The streets of the 1893 World's Fair were lit up at night – as was the name of the man providing the power



Thomas Edison brought together teams of inventors at Menlo Park, his invention factory

**G**rover Cleveland had one of the more straightforward tasks of his presidency on the evening of 1 May 1893. After saying a few words to the crowd, he pushed a gold button and hundreds of thousands of lightbulbs buzzed into life. It may not sound like much today, but no one had ever seen such a display of electrical power as the spectacle he switched on. The lights coruscated over the grand lake and illuminated the neoclassical buildings purpose-built for the occasion, while multi-coloured searchlights pierced the sky.

The Chicago World's Fair had opened. Over the next six months, an estimated 27 million visitors flocked to this celebration of culture, invention, architecture, entertainment and a city reborn from the ashes of a devastating fire two decades earlier.

And as the bulbs kept shining and generators humming, the company providing the power claimed victory in a war of competing electrical systems. Genius inventors and industrialists – with Thomas Edison on one side, facing George Westinghouse and Nikola Tesla on the other – battled to lead the technological revolution that has powered humankind ever since. The success at the fair, essentially, declared the winner.

Before the War of the Currents, Thomas Edison was already a household name. By the late 1870s, and barely in his 30s, the American developed an almost-magical sound-recording device called the phonograph, and set up his 'invention factory' at Menlo Park, New Jersey. Then following months of testing, Edison demonstrated the world's first practical

incandescent lightbulb. It was a defining moment in his career, but perfecting a durable, safe and mass-produced form of electric light without the means to power it would be like inventing the car without fuel or roads. Edison needed an entirely new system and infrastructure for electrical distribution. The Edison Illuminating Company used direct current (DC), where energy flows constantly in a single direction in the same way as a battery. That powered his lightbulbs and he held the relevant patents, so Edison had a practical and strongly financial incentive to establish DC as the standard across the United States.

## TWO SYSTEMS

The first power station opened on Pearl Street, New York, in September 1882 and began serving 59 customers. As more plants followed, homes and businesses became connected and royalties soon flowed in, Edison parried press attacks from under-threat gas companies accusing electricity of being too dangerous. Yet these gains masked a much more serious problem – the unavoidable truth that DC had drawbacks.

It could not be transmitted over long distances without losing a lot of energy, so much so that plants had to be within a mile of customers. This involved more plants, more generators and more copper wiring. Plus, as DC ran at a

constant rate, supplying different voltages would require separately installed lines, making it yet more expensive.

Alternating current (AC), where the flow reverses direction dozens of times per second, did not have these problems. A transformer, which went from a theoretical idea to functional use in the 1880s, could 'step up' the voltage, which allowed electricity to be transmitted far greater distances than DC with negligible loss. The high voltage would then be 'stepped down' by another transformer at the end of the line to make it safe for use.

As the electricity could be transported long distances, plants could be larger – so there would be fewer of them – and cheaper to operate. AC used thinner copper too, bringing costs down further. It wasn't perfected yet, though, as a fully functional system still missed some innovations and improvements. That

was until a brilliant Serbian mathematician, engineer and visionary came along.

Nikola Tesla, having travelled to America in 1884 with just four cents in his pocket, started out working at Edison Machine Works improving DC generators. He proved good at it, once staying up all night to repair the dynamos on the ocean liner SS Oregon. Like Edison, he worked long hours, slept little and

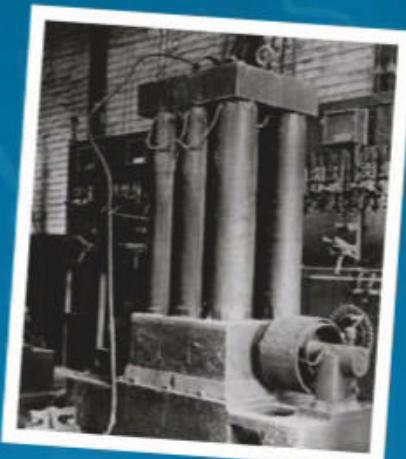


**"The lightbulb without power would be like the car without fuel or roads"**

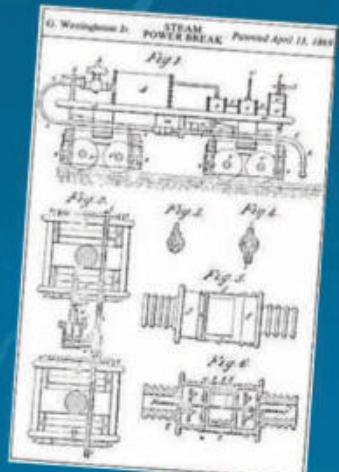
# EDISON VS WESTINGHOUSE

The two men wanted the same thing – to control power distribution – but they had very different ways of achieving it

THOMAS EDISON



GEORGE WESTINGHOUSE



## BEFORE THE WAR

► Thomas Edison achieved worldwide fame in 1887 for his phonograph. He worked on the sound recording device, among other things, at the industrial research laboratory he set up – the first of its kind – at Menlo Park.

**Direct Current (DC)**  
The electrical charge flows in a single direction at a constant voltage or current, as seen in a battery.

► As Edison got there first, DC stations had become the standard (he even developed a meter so customers could be billed according to consumption). DC energy could be stored as back-up and flowed at lower, safer voltages.

DC had a small transmission range before losing significant amounts of energy. Power stations had to be within a mile of their customers – so were only cost-efficient in towns and cities – and required heavier, more expensive copper wiring.

Initially, Edison had the backing of hugely wealthy financiers JP Morgan and the Vanderbilt family, and all the resources of Menlo Park. In his attempts to demonstrate the dangers of AC, he colluded with electrical engineer Harold P Brown.



► He continued inventing and developing the ideas of others (or buying them). Some were world-changing innovations – his motion picture projector, the Kinetoscope (pictured) – while a few proved less successful, notably his venture in mining iron ore.



## CURRENTS

► After serving in the American Civil War, George Westinghouse made his fortune after inventing an air brake to greatly improve safety on the burgeoning railroads. The industrialist then established a company to ensure the adoption of his brake and signalling innovations.

**Alternating Current (AC)**  
The current changes direction multiple times a second. If plotted on a graph, AC looks like a wave of peaks and troughs.

Crucially, AC could be transmitted over long distances without much loss. This meant that fewer power stations were needed than with DC, and they could cover more remote regions. It was easier and cheaper to generate too.

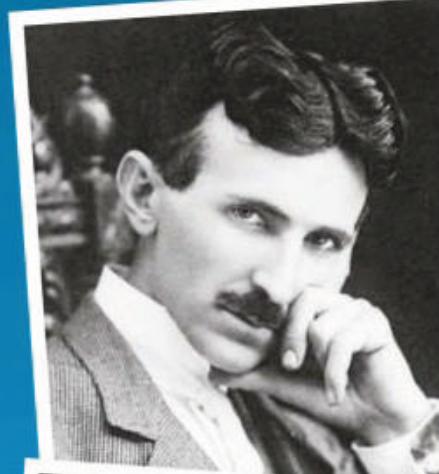
## PROS OF THE CURRENT

## CONS OF THE CURRENT

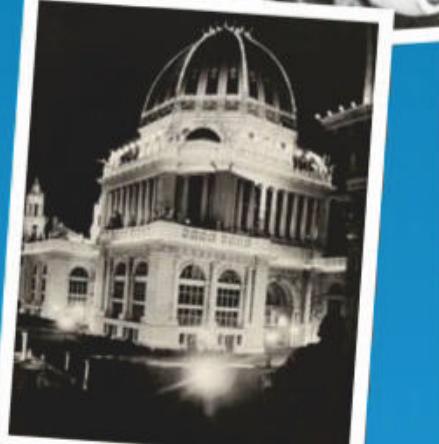
Transmitting AC over long distances meant stepping it up, using a transformer, to very high voltages. This meant that poorly insulated wires were extremely hazardous.

## WARTIME ALLIES

► Nikola Tesla, a Serbian mathematician and engineer, was a valuable partner with the genius to make AC work, while Westinghouse had the business acumen to sell it. Tesla sold him several patents concerning his polyphase motor for a large lump sum, shares and royalties.



► His company sold at a loss in the early days to muscle into Edison's monopoly and built stations in areas not covered by DC's limited range. Westinghouse then secured the contract to light the 1893 World Fair in Chicago by underbidding the competition.



## AFTER THE WAR

Financial woes eventually saw him lose control of his company in 1907, but a few years later he would be awarded the prestigious, if ironically named, Edison Medal for developing AC. As for Tesla, he spent his fortune on further experiments before dying penniless in a New York hotel in 1943.

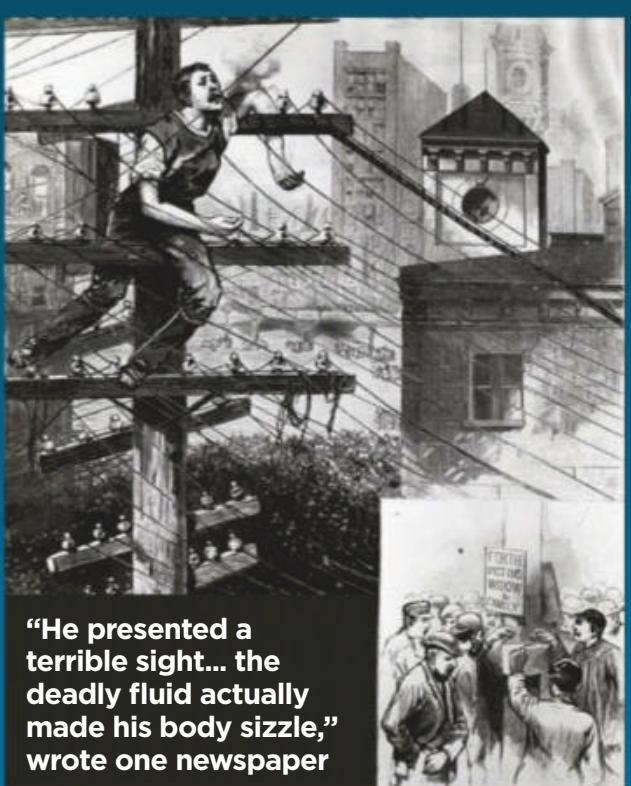
## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

**"GENIUS IS ONE PER CENT INSPIRATION AND 99 PER CENT PERSPIRATION."**

**"IF SOMEDAY THEY SAY OF ME THAT IN MY WORK I HAVE CONTRIBUTED SOMETHING TO THE WELFARE AND HAPPINESS OF MY FELLOW MAN, I SHALL BE SATISFIED."**

had an unquenchable drive to innovate. But Tesla always believed the future of distributing electricity relied on AC, and left the job after Edison rejected his ideas as "splendid", but "utterly impractical".

An undeterred Tesla spent the next few years raising money for his own laboratory, including a stint digging ditches for Edison's wires, and developing an AC system. His induction motor used a game-changing polyphase current (AC



"He presented a terrible sight... the deadly fluid actually made his body sizzle," wrote one newspaper

## THE DEATH OF JOHN FEEKS

A spate of accidental electrocutions caused by the crisscrossing mess of overhead wires gave many reason to fear electricity, and fuelled Thomas Edison's anti-AC crusade. The most gruesome death came on 11 October 1889. Western Union lineman John Feeks lost his footing while up a pole in downtown Manhattan and grabbed what should have been a low voltage telegraph wire – not knowing that it had become connected with a high voltage line several blocks away.

He died instantly, but his body got entangled in the web and it would take over half an hour for his fellow linemen to cut him free. All the while, Feeks burned. Blue spouts could be seen shooting out from the body and blood dripped down onto the street, where a lunchtime crowd of thousands had gathered, looking up in utter horror at the macabre scene. One newspaper described Feeks as "being slowly incinerated". In the aftermath, wires in New York were cut down and moved underground, leaving the city without electricity over winter.

flowed in waves, so this filled in the 'troughs' with multiple voltages) to generate a rotating magnetic field (meaning fewer mechanical parts to maintain). Tesla had the ideas, but not the capital and business knowhow.

A Pittsburgh industrialist named George Westinghouse had both. Unlike his competitor Edison, who enjoyed his celebrity, Westinghouse kept himself private and did not like having his photograph taken. He was a savvy businessman, having made his fortune on the railroad, and immediately recognised the importance of Tesla's work to his own ambitions for AC. As well as offering Tesla a job as a consultant, Westinghouse bought the patents for \$60,000 in cash or stock and \$2.50 for each horsepower of electricity sold – all worth millions today.

### SPREADING SHOCK

"George Westinghouse was, in my opinion, the only man on this globe who could take my alternating-current system under the circumstances then existing and win the battle against prejudice and money power," said Tesla later in life. "He was one of the world's true noblemen, of whom America may well be proud and to whom humanity owes an immense debt of gratitude."

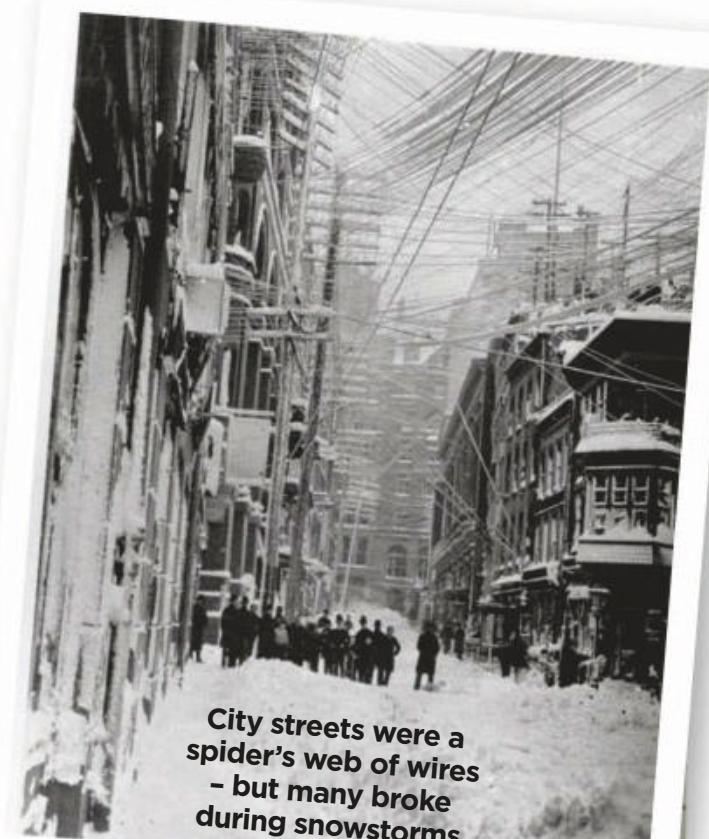
Westinghouse Electric Company, which had been created before Tesla's involvement, posed a threat to Edison's monopoly. Westinghouse targeted rural areas that could not be reached by DC's small transmission range and managed to undercut rival business in the towns and cities by selling at a loss. By late 1887, he had built 68 power plants to Edison's 121. To make matters worse, Edison faced competition from other DC companies too, such as Thomson-Houston. With the proliferation of electrical

providers came expensive lawsuits over patents, which dragged on for years.

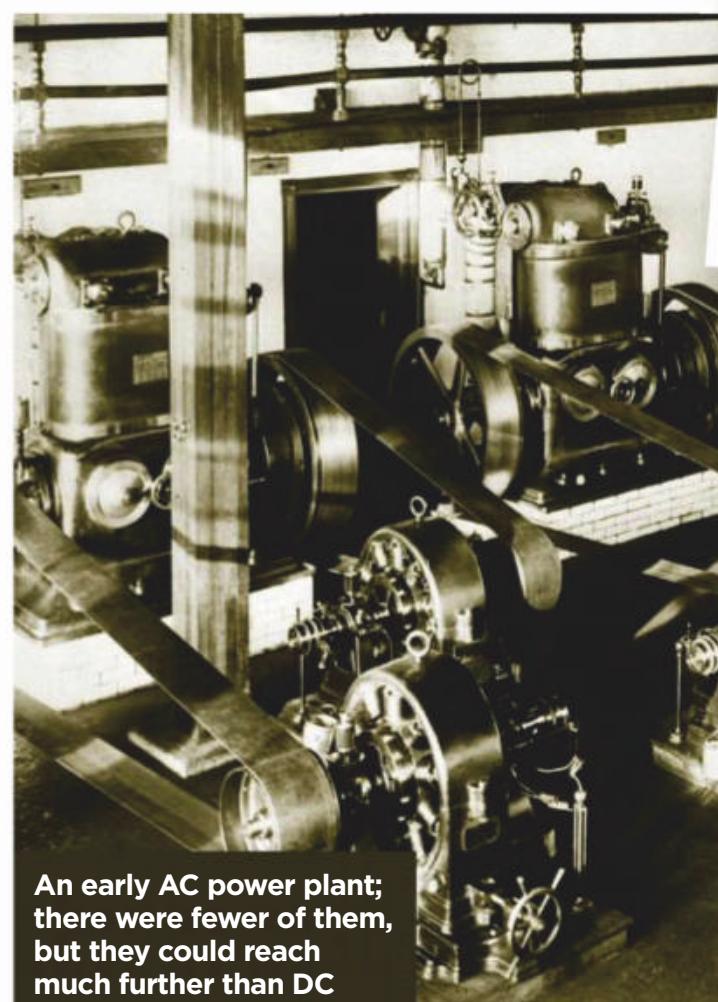
Losing power, literally, and still struggling to make significant improvements to his own distribution, the 'Wizard of Menlo Park' refused to acknowledge the benefits of AC. It may have been down to pride or stubbornness, or because he had invested too much, or due to a sincere concern that his rivals' high-voltage wires endangered people's lives. Or all of the above. Whatever the reason, Edison showed how cutthroat he could be by launching a fearmongering smear campaign.

"Just as certain as death, Westinghouse will kill a customer within six months," he had written in 1886. Sure enough, accidental electrocutions occurred when wires had been poorly installed or insulated as thousands of volts coursed through them, and Edison regularly used these deaths as fodder in his damning evidence against AC.

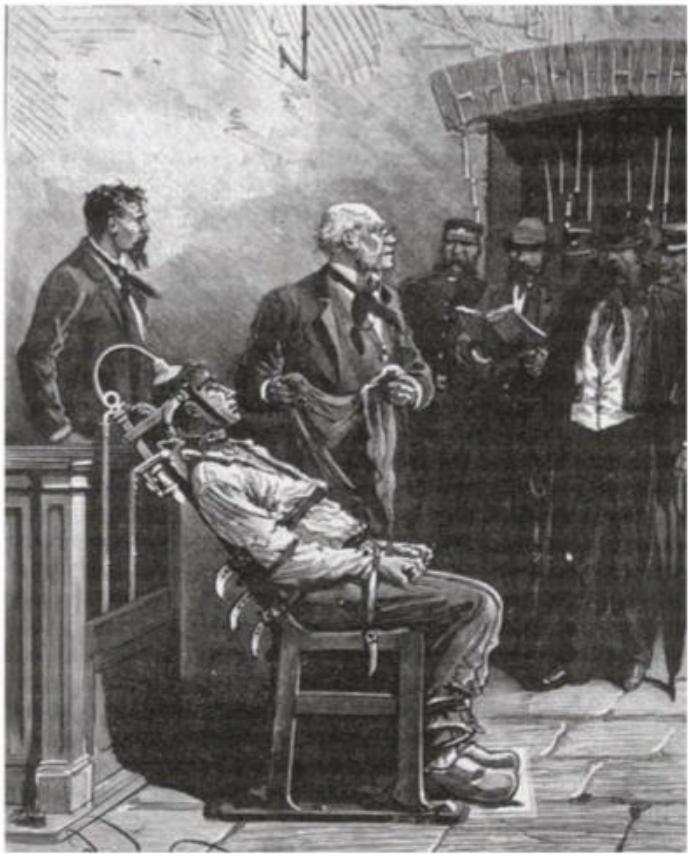
"Its effect upon muscular action is so great that even at exceedingly low voltage the hand which grasps a conductor cannot free itself...



City streets were a spider's web of wires – but many broke during snowstorms



An early AC power plant; there were fewer of them, but they could reach much further than DC



ABOVE: It took around eight minutes for Kemmler to die on the first electric chair, which suited Edison's anti-AC campaign

RIGHT: Nikola Tesla was instrumental in harnessing the power of Niagara Falls

the nervous system of a human being could be shocked for a sufficient length of time to produce death," he wrote in an 1889 article, *The Dangers of Electric Lighting*. Nevertheless, he continually claimed that his own DC remained perfectly safe. Westinghouse later recalled how Edison once said, "Direct current was like a river flowing peacefully to the sea, while alternating current was like a torrent rushing violently over a precipice".

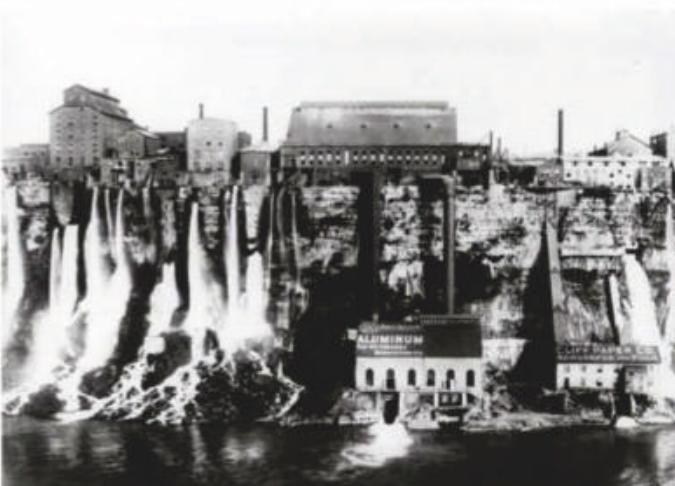
His campaign would go much further than rhetoric. Enlisting the help of electrical engineer Harold P Brown, he staged a number of grisly experiments where stray dogs (bought for 25 cents from local boys), calves and a horse would be brought to one of his laboratories and electrocuted. If animals did not make his point clearly enough, Edison also became embroiled in the adoption of the first electric chair to execute a human.

While he opposed capital punishment initially, an opportunity not to be missed fell into his lap. New York dentist Alfred P Southwick approached him concerning his desire for a more humane method of execution than hanging, believing electricity could be the answer. Edison had previously quipped that the best method would be to "hire out your criminals as linemen to the New York electric lighting companies," but to Southwick, he recommended "alternating machines".

Although an appalled Westinghouse refused to sell any of his generators for that purpose, Brown had been selected to design the chair based on Southwick's ideas and he made



When Edison's company became General Electric, it completely refitted power plants to catch up with AC



sure it used AC. Edison even coined the term 'Westinghoused' to describe someone being electrocuted. So when convicted murderer William Kemmler was sentenced to die on the electric chair, Westinghouse spent \$100,000 on his appeal – in vain as the Supreme Court rejected the argument that electrocution constituted a "cruel and unusual punishment".

On 6 August 1890, guards strapped Kemmler into the AC-powered chair at Auburn Prison and flipped the switch. The 17-second burst of 1,000 volts did not kill him, so he had to be hit a second time, after an agonising wait while the generator charged.

With double the voltage running through his body, Kemmler bled and his hair began to singe, while the smell of burning flesh made some witnesses retch. Westinghouse, on hearing about the bungled execution, stated, "They would have done better using an axe".

### THE WAR IS WON

Yet after all the bad publicity and attacks, Edison's crusade failed to prevent the ascendency of AC or his profits from falling. His years of championing DC fizzled out as he stepped aside to pursue other projects and a merger in 1892 with Thomson-Houston turned his

company into the more AC-friendly General Electric (GE).

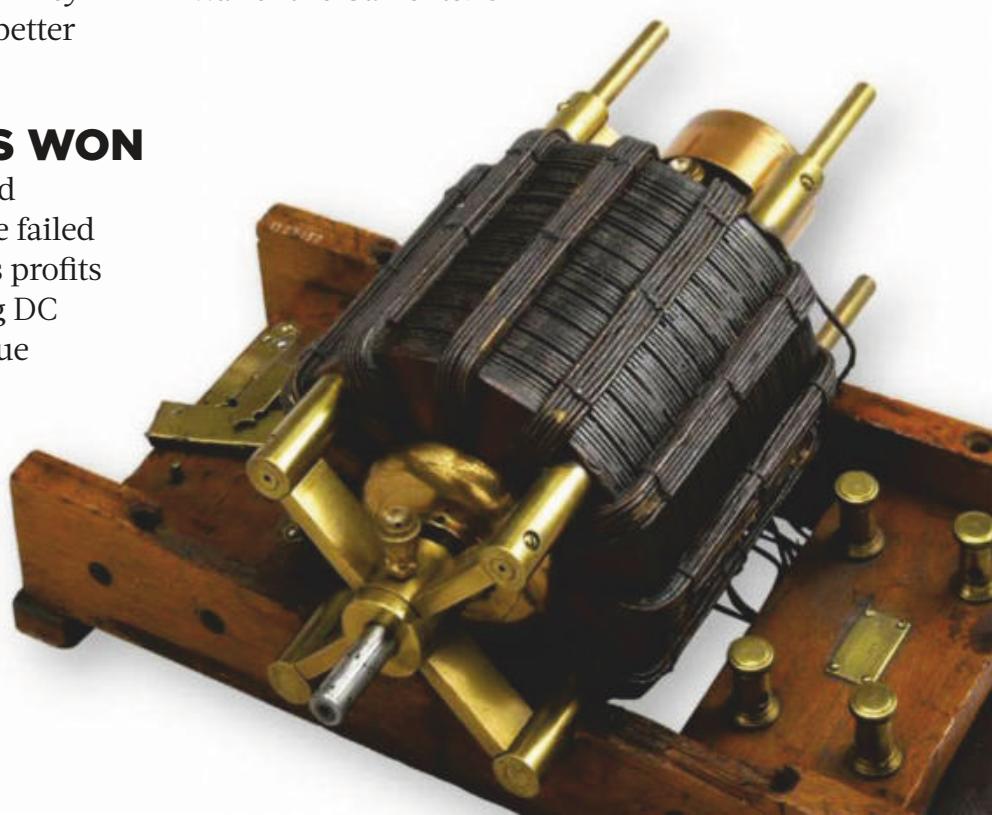
That did not stop the struggles for power with Westinghouse Electric, and it actually would not take long for GE to catch up once the commitment to DC had gone. The news that the Chicago World's Fair of 1893 – also called the Columbian Exhibition to celebrate 400 years since Columbus reached the New World – would be powered by electricity set off a bidding war. It was another success for AC as Westinghouse won the contract by underbidding GE, providing his company with its most public and spectacular display yet.

Beyond the glittering sight of hundreds of thousands of lightbulbs outside, generators were on display in the Electricity Building and Tesla had a space to show off his work with his usual panache and showmanship. He demonstrated the theory of his induction motor by placing a copper egg into a rotating magnetic field, where it would spin on its axis of its own free will.

The fair, while a monumental triumph in its own right, also gave Westinghouse the reputation needed to secure the highly desired contract to build a hydroelectric plant on the Niagara Falls. By the time the great machinery began generating power, on 16 November 1896, for the city of Buffalo more than 20 miles away, there could be no doubt that AC had won the War of the Currents. ◎

## "Edison showed how cutthroat he could be with a smear campaign"

Tesla's induction motor was one of the most powerful weapons in AC's victory in the War of the Currents



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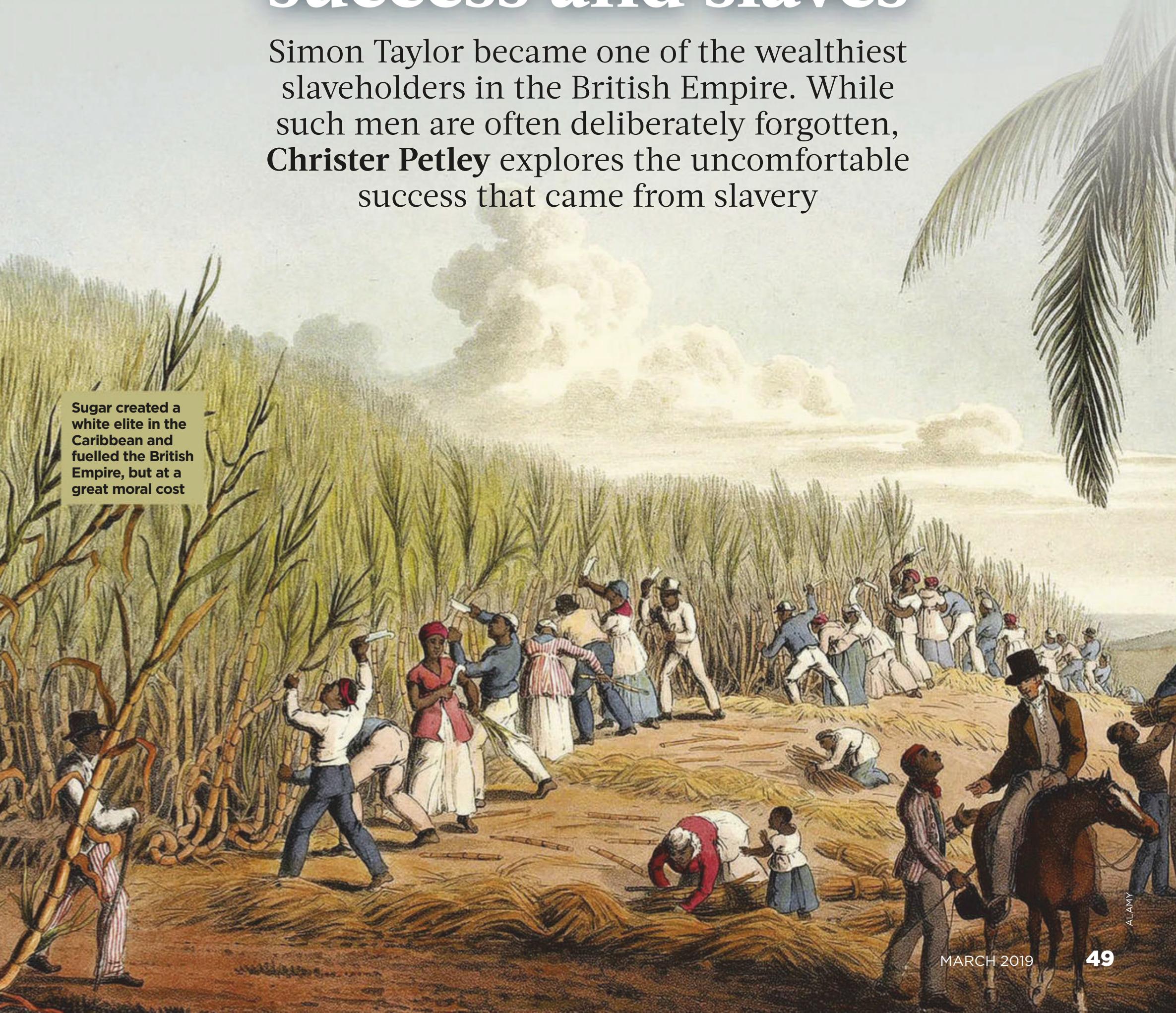
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# WEALTH AND FURY

## One man's story of sugar, success and slaves

Simon Taylor became one of the wealthiest slaveholders in the British Empire. While such men are often deliberately forgotten, **Christer Petley** explores the uncomfortable success that came from slavery

**Sugar created a white elite in the Caribbean and fuelled the British Empire, but at a great moral cost**





LEFT: Simon Taylor's Llanrumney Estate, where he had more than 400 slaves; it looks almost idyllic in James Hakewill's c1820 watercolour  
TOP RIGHT: A 1745 plan of Kingston, a bustling town thanks to the slave trade

**T**wo days before Christmas 1739, in the busy port-town of Kingston, Jamaica, Simon Taylor was born. His father was a successful merchant who had emigrated to the colony from Scotland, and his mother was the daughter of one of the island's most prosperous English settlers. Taylor was born into privilege at the beating commercial heart of the wealthiest part of Britain's 18th-century empire.

That wealth was based on sugar. As Taylor was being baptised in the Anglican church near the bustling Kingston dockside, lush green fields of sugar cane sprawled out behind the expanding mini-metropolis. Looming above were the Blue Mountains, the highest part of a forested tropical interior, and beyond in the eastern, northern and western parishes of the Caribbean island was a frontier. Mile upon mile of fertile land, along low coastal plains and in the wide river valleys – this was land in the process of being bought-up, surveyed, cleared and cultivated. It was being transformed into more lucrative sugar plantations for the benefit of ambitious risk-taking British entrepreneurs. Sugar created the wealth of the white Jamaican elite, but it also created one of the most unequal societies in human history.

The dangerous physical labour of cultivation was being done by slaves, imported into Jamaica via the slave trade from West Africa. Many systems of forced labour have existed before and since, but the Atlantic slave trade was especially violent and deadly. It was also distinctively divisive, characterised by stark racism: black

people were enslaved, white people were not. Between the 16th and 19th centuries, at least 12.5 million captive Africans were forcibly boarded onto merchant ships bound for the New World, where they toiled for the profit of Europeans. Almost a quarter of them left on vessels heading for the British sugar islands in the Caribbean, where Jamaica would be the primary destination.

### BUILDING AN EMPIRE

This was the colonial world into which Simon Taylor was born. By the time he was a young man, he had received an English education at Eton College and returned to his native Jamaica, having inherited his recently deceased father's wealth. His 20s were spent capitalising on his inheritance and taking financial gambles to invest heavily in Jamaican sugar. He soon owned

three plantations: vast estates with cane fields covering hundreds of acres, and each with a costly set of buildings for the industrialised process of boiling and refining raw cane-juice into sugar for export.

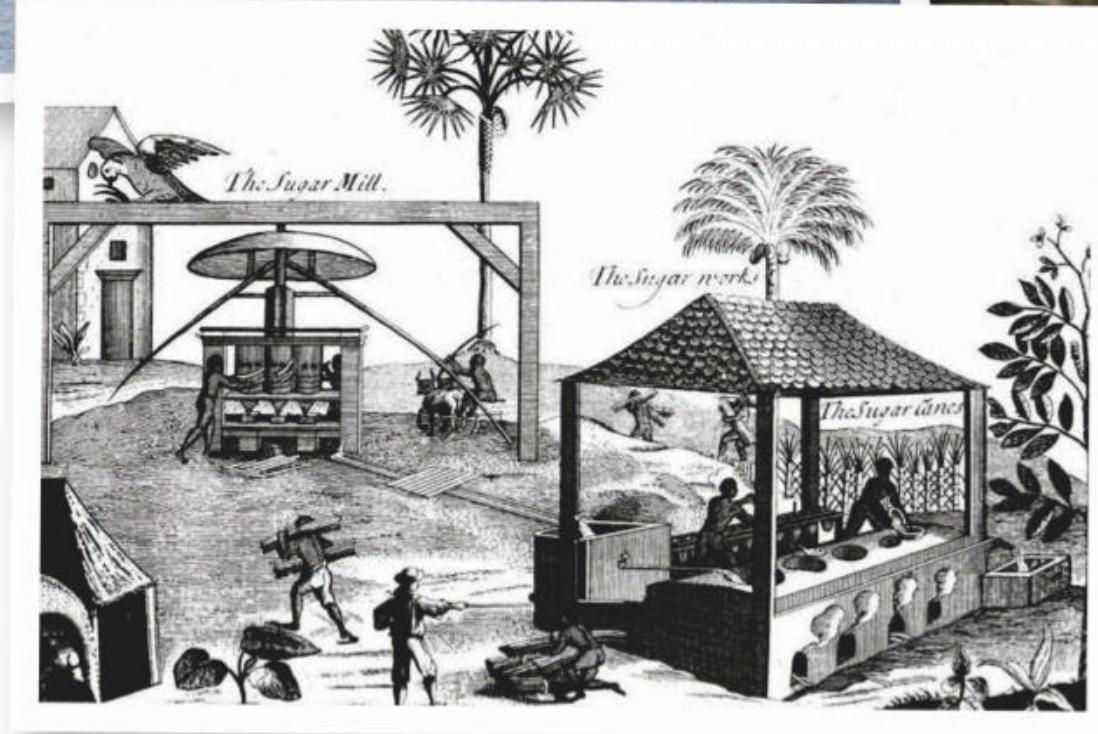
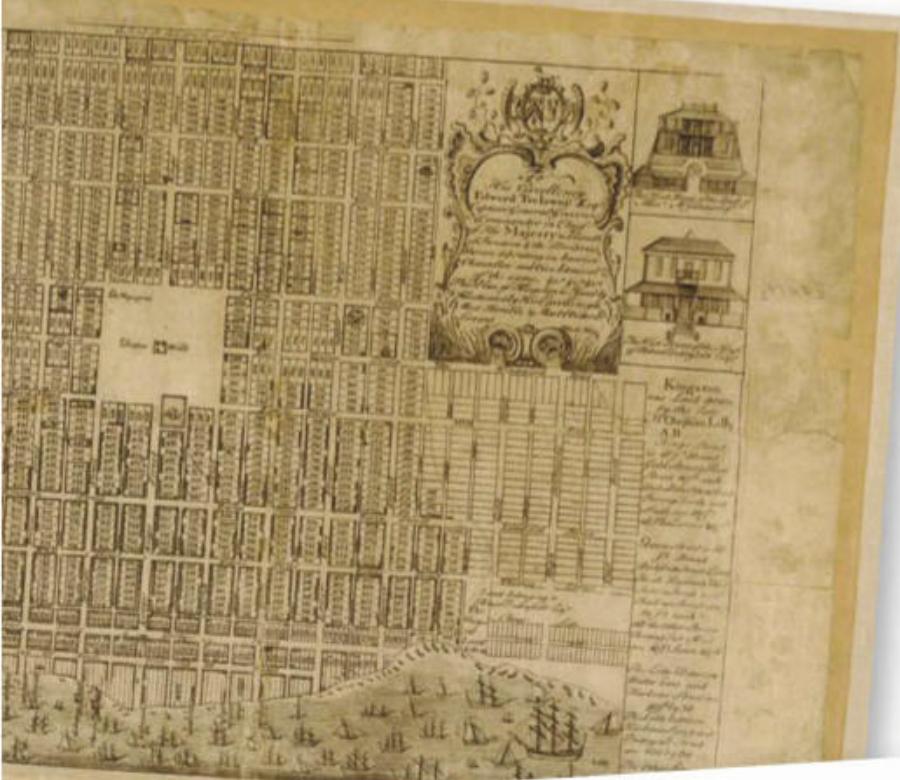
Taylor became one of the biggest slaveholders in the Caribbean. His Jamaican properties eventually had a combined workforce of more than 2,000 slaves – men, women and children

– and every one of them was owned by Taylor as a personal 'possession'. Their lives were characterised by back-breaking labour and grinding poverty, but their exploitation made Taylor a fortune.

His income was massive. By 1792, he had become one of three super-rich Caribbean sugar tycoons whose individual annual income was reported to have exceeded £50,000. To put that into context, when Jane Austen (who took details of wealth, status and money very seriously indeed) wanted to create a character of extraordinary wealth for her 1813 novel *Pride and Prejudice*, she came up with Mr Darcy and his famous £10,000 a year. Taylor, who died in the same year Austen's novel was published, received an annual income from his slave-run properties that could make even Mr Darcy's fortune seem small in comparison.

**“Taylor's plantations had a workforce of more than 2,000 slaves”**

It was not only planters like Taylor who made money from colonial sugar and slavery. So too did the British merchants who transported Jamaican sugar across the Atlantic for sale in Europe or who supplied the colonists with slaves. The British treasury made money from this business too, through import duties on sugar. All those employed in the shipping and selling of sugar reaped benefits, and so did the



The seated man on the left is often said to be Simon Taylor, but he was in Jamaica when his brother John (far right) had this painting of his family done in England



MIDDLE LEFT: The mill building of one of the plantations owned by Taylor can be glimpsed through the trees  
BOTTOM LEFT: Sugar plantations brought huge wealth to Britain

navy, which depended on the skills of sailors trained on the long-distance voyages of the sugar trade.

Jamaican produce found its way into the humblest of 18th-century British domestic settings. As increasing numbers of Britons sat down to enjoy sweet cakes, scones and jam, they were transforming their bodies and habits of consumption thanks to the toil of slaves on distant plantations.

As he grew older, Taylor watched countless British ships coming and going in Kingston harbour. He did business with captains, slave traders and sugar merchants, playing a leading role in the intensifying hustle of commerce that

connected colonial Jamaica with the British Isles. He knew that the wealth this generated had helped establish the British Empire as he knew it. He also believed that sugar and slavery would shape its future.

## WEALTH FOR WHITES

Wealthy Jamaican slaveholders became the kingpins of empire during the middle decades of the 18th century. They seemed to have the world at their feet. Taylor was a prominent member of this rising group of newly wealthy businessmen, whose wealth made in the Caribbean propelled them into the upper ranks of the gentry in Britain. Many of the richest

of these men would leave their Caribbean properties in the hands of local managers so they could retire to Britain, where they bought country estates, became Members of Parliament, and one – William Beckford – even became Lord Mayor of London.

Despite his wealth, Taylor chose to stay in Jamaica, living the life of a colonial bachelor. The sexual exploitation of women of colour by white men was rife, and it is known that Taylor had at least two long-term relationships with free women. He probably fathered several illegitimate mixed-race children, although they were not destined to be the principal heirs to Taylor's fortune. Instead, it was the white family of his younger brother who benefitted most from the money generated by Taylor's Jamaican plantations, living in flamboyant opulence at 'home' in England.

This was the way Taylor wanted it. He wrote to tell his brother that he would "work hard both night and day" to make a success of his plantation business. He lived through what

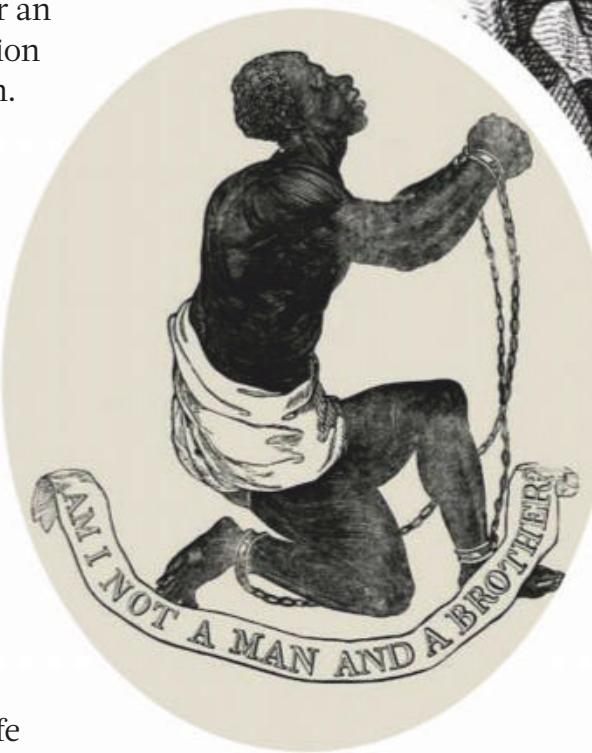
he called his “years of purgatory” during his 30s – a time of “uneasiness and anxiety”, as he borrowed big sums of money and grappled with crop-blight, the impact of war, and insurrectionary plots by Jamaican slaves. He was prepared to run those risks to secure elite status for his family, and in the expectation that things would get easier over time.

Eventually, Taylor paid off his creditors and saw his personal income rise, only for him to enter middle age and see British humanitarians launch a political attack against the slaveholders of the empire. To people like the MP William Wilberforce, colonial slaveholders were not loyal and useful British entrepreneurs, but selfish tyrants presiding over an immoral system of exploitation that was a disgrace to Britain. By the end of the 1780s, Wilberforce had emerged as the leading voice in a campaign to abolish the slave trade. Some abolitionists were prepared to go further, demanding not only the end of the trade between Africa and the Caribbean, but the end of slavery itself. So despite having become one of the richest planter grandees of his generation, the second half of Taylor’s life was to be every bit as fraught with uncertainty as the first.

## ADVANCE OF ABOLITION

Taylor saw abolitionism as a threat to everything he had worked for over the years. The end of the slave trade, he knew, would severely hurt his business, as he and his fellow planters relied on a system that was, quite simply, institutionalised manslaughter. Conditions for slaves on Jamaican sugar plantations were appalling, with the number of deaths outnumbering births. So if planters like Taylor could not replace workers with new ‘recruits’ from the slave ships, they would soon struggle to maintain their profits.

Wilberforce and his allies did more than threaten Taylor’s economic interests, however. They also questioned his very identity. ‘Am I not a man and a brother?’ was the slogan of the abolitionist movement, accompanied by the image of a kneeling, shackled African begging for help. It was a popular message that neatly summarised the abolitionist outlook, and simultaneously challenged the principles of white supremacy and white solidarity that



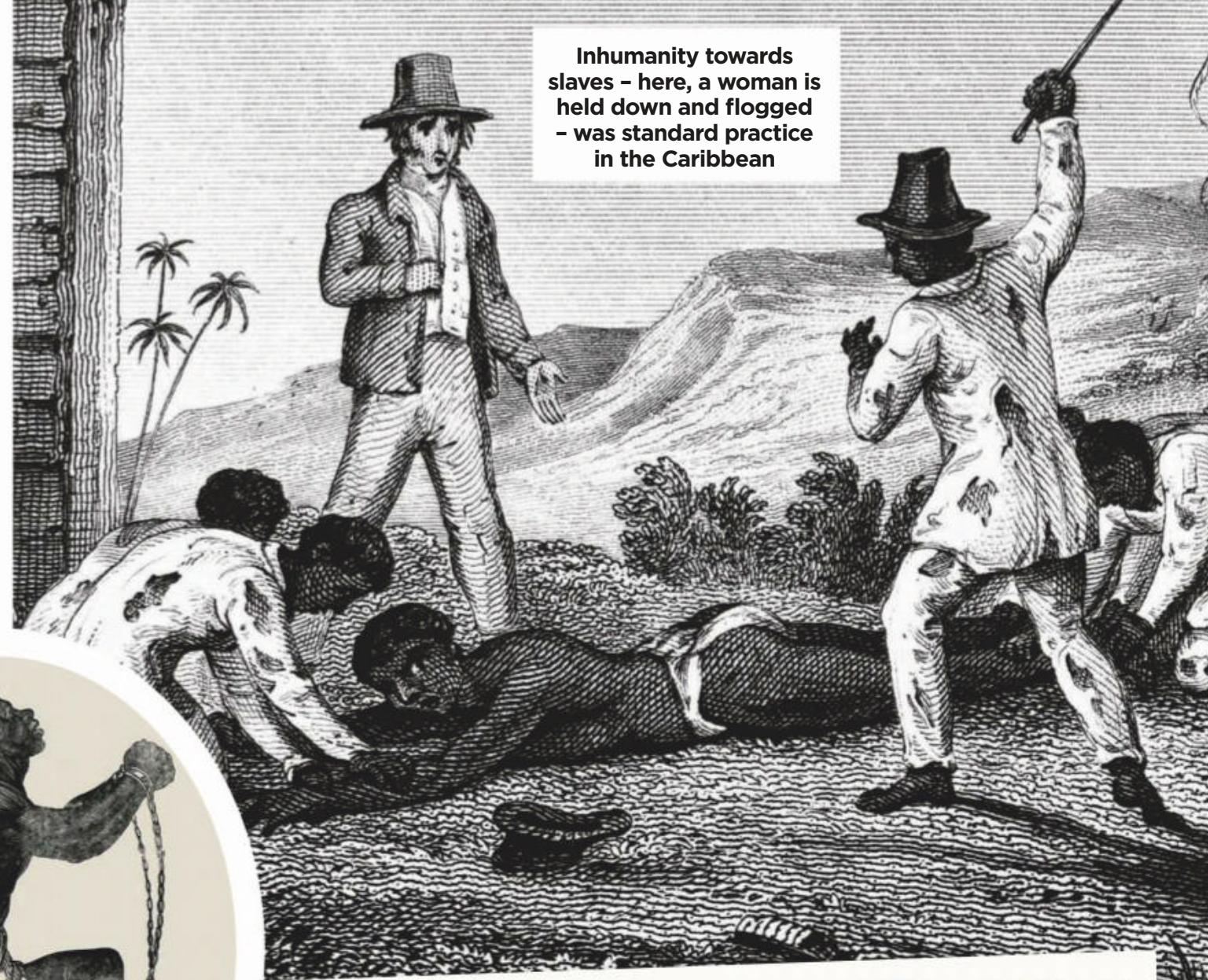
ABOVE: ‘Am I Not a Man and a Brother?’ was first produced by renowned potter Josiah Wedgwood

RIGHT: In a satirical cartoon, George III and his family discuss how much sugar they use

## Wilberforce was a “hell-begotten imp” spreading “infernal nonsense”

took up the interests of “negroes” against those of white colonial slaveholders.

In 1807, on receiving the long-anticipated news that parliament had reached its momentous decision to put an end the slave



Inhumanity towards slaves – here, a woman is held down and flogged – was standard practice in the Caribbean

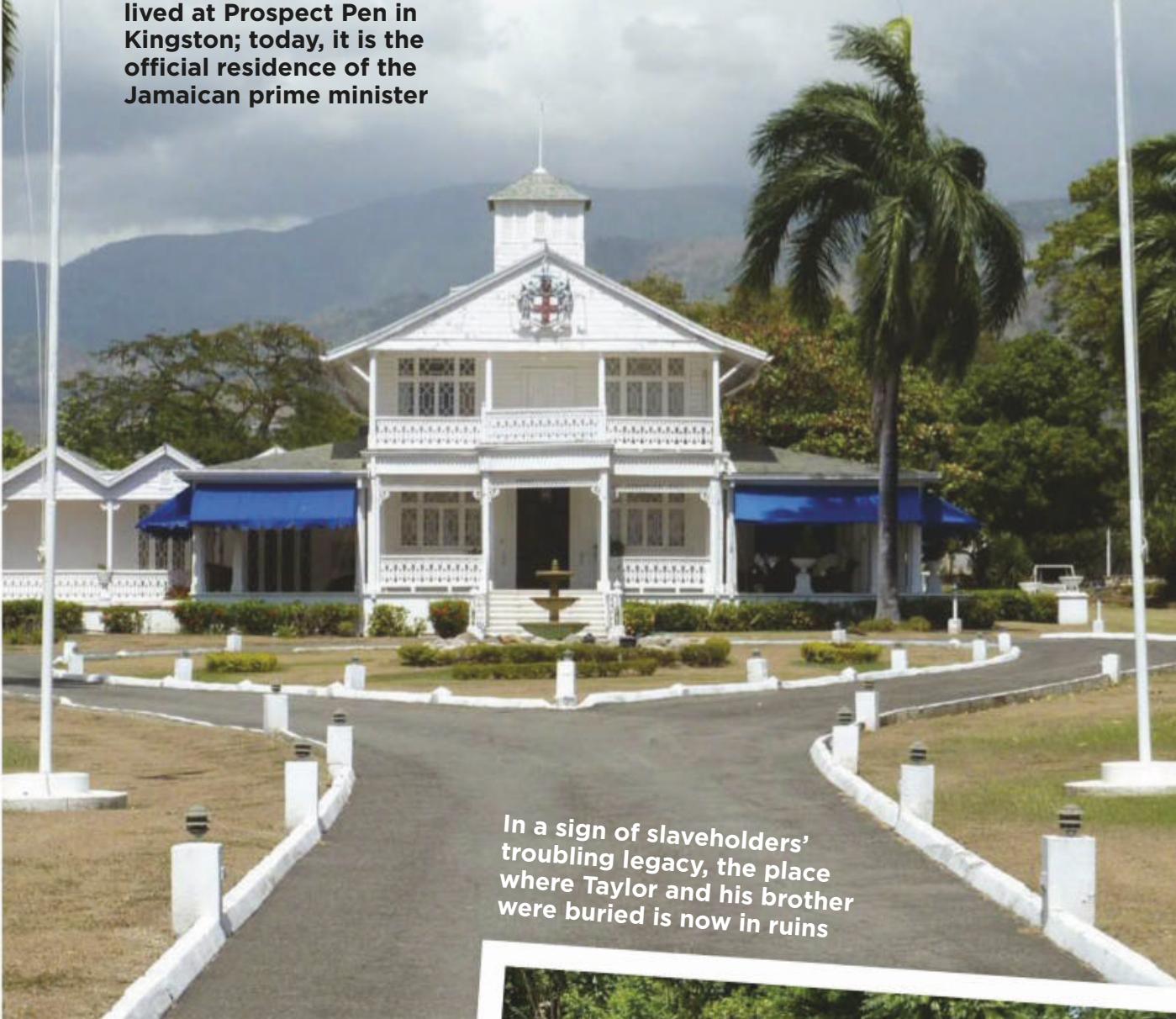


Taylor thought should define the empire. To men like him, the only people who could be considered “natural born subjects”, deserving of British care and protection, were whites. From his home in Jamaica, Taylor raged against the abolitionists. Wilberforce, he complained, was a “hell-begotten imp”, spreading “infernal nonsense” as he

trade, Taylor’s reaction was predictable. He was, he wrote, “lost in astonishment and amazement at the phrensy which has seized the British nation”. In Taylor’s view, he and his fellow slaveholders were being abandoned by a nation they loved – and one that they had helped make rich and powerful. In fact, parliament had only abolished the trade in slaves across the Atlantic, not the institution of slavery itself. The emancipation of slaves in the colonies only followed much later, during the 1830s. But the abolition of the slave trade nonetheless represented a significant blow to the slave system that had enabled Taylor’s rise to wealth and prominence.

Taylor had believed that system would be a permanent and strong foundation for his family’s fortune. Now, he had to contemplate a different long-term future, and he did not like

From 1785, Simon Taylor lived at Prospect Pen in Kingston; today, it is the official residence of the Jamaican prime minister



In a sign of slaveholders' troubling legacy, the place where Taylor and his brother were buried is now in ruins



it. "I am glad I am an old man", he grumbled towards the end of his life, confessing that he was "really sick both in mind & body at scenes I foresee". While it made him angry, abolition did not ruin him, though. Far from it. When he died in 1813, aged 73, Taylor was probably worth about £1 million, which would be around £50 million today and a huge fortune by the standards of his time. He was, by any measure, one of the richest people ever to have lived in the British Empire.

## LONGING TO FORGET

Today, Taylor is more or less unknown. When they have remembered slavery at all, white

British people have tended to celebrate the heroes of abolition, such as Wilberforce. In Jamaica, it is the heroes of resistance to slavery and colonialism whose faces appear on the bank notes. Taylor is buried in Jamaica, on the site of one of his old sugar estates, in a spot that was once surrounded by his lucrative cane fields and in sight of the shipping lanes that connected them to the wider British Empire. But the plantation is gone and his once grand tomb lies dilapidated, unmarked on maps, and absent from tourist guidebooks.

None of us want to identify with Taylor. But his story, and those of other British slaveholding men, must be remembered, even if to do so may feel difficult and discomfiting. The fact is that most of Taylor's vast wealth found its way back to Britain, inherited by his extended

family in England, and by the time he died, Caribbean sugar had been contributing to national wealth and power for generations. Millions of enslaved people had suffered and died, and the systemic racism that underpinned New World slavery persisted. It still persists. However hard we might try to pretend that Taylor's story has nothing to do with us, the world of sugar and slavery that he helped to create has left behind many iniquitous legacies. It is not yet fully dead or finally buried. ☠

## GET HOOKED

### BOOK

Christer Petley's *White Fury: a Jamaican Slaveholder and the Age of Revolution* (Oxford University Press, 2018) uses Simon Taylor's letters to give an evocative account of his life and the struggle over slavery in the empire.

# Sugar and strife

Making money from Caribbean sugar plantations was not easy, and men like Simon Taylor had to face many risks...

## THE BLACK BLAST

An infestation of tiny insects would descend on the luscious green sugar plants and turn them black. It was the worst form of sugar blight, capable of ruining a crop within a matter of days.

## YELLOW FEVER

A constant hazard in the tropical zone and one that cut down white colonials in their droves. Young newcomers were especially susceptible to this deadly mosquito-borne disease, and there was no known cure.

## HURRICANES

Every planter in the Caribbean region knew that they were exposing their fortunes, properties and enslaved workforces to tropical disasters. Hurricanes frequently tore across the sugar islands with devastating force, leaving a trail of ruin, disease and hunger in their wake.

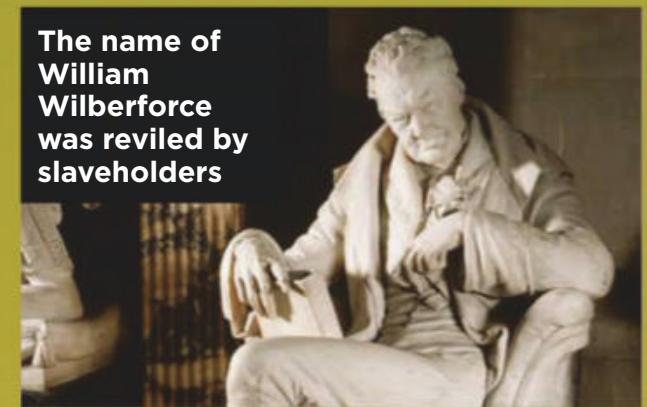
## WAR

Common in the 18th-century Caribbean, war brought disastrous disruptions to trade, along with the possibility of foreign invasion. Islands often changed hands in Britain's wars with France, but the American Revolutionary War was the most destructive for British colonies. Food from North America stopped arriving in Jamaica, causing thousands of slaves to starve to death.

## UPRISINGS AND ABOLITION

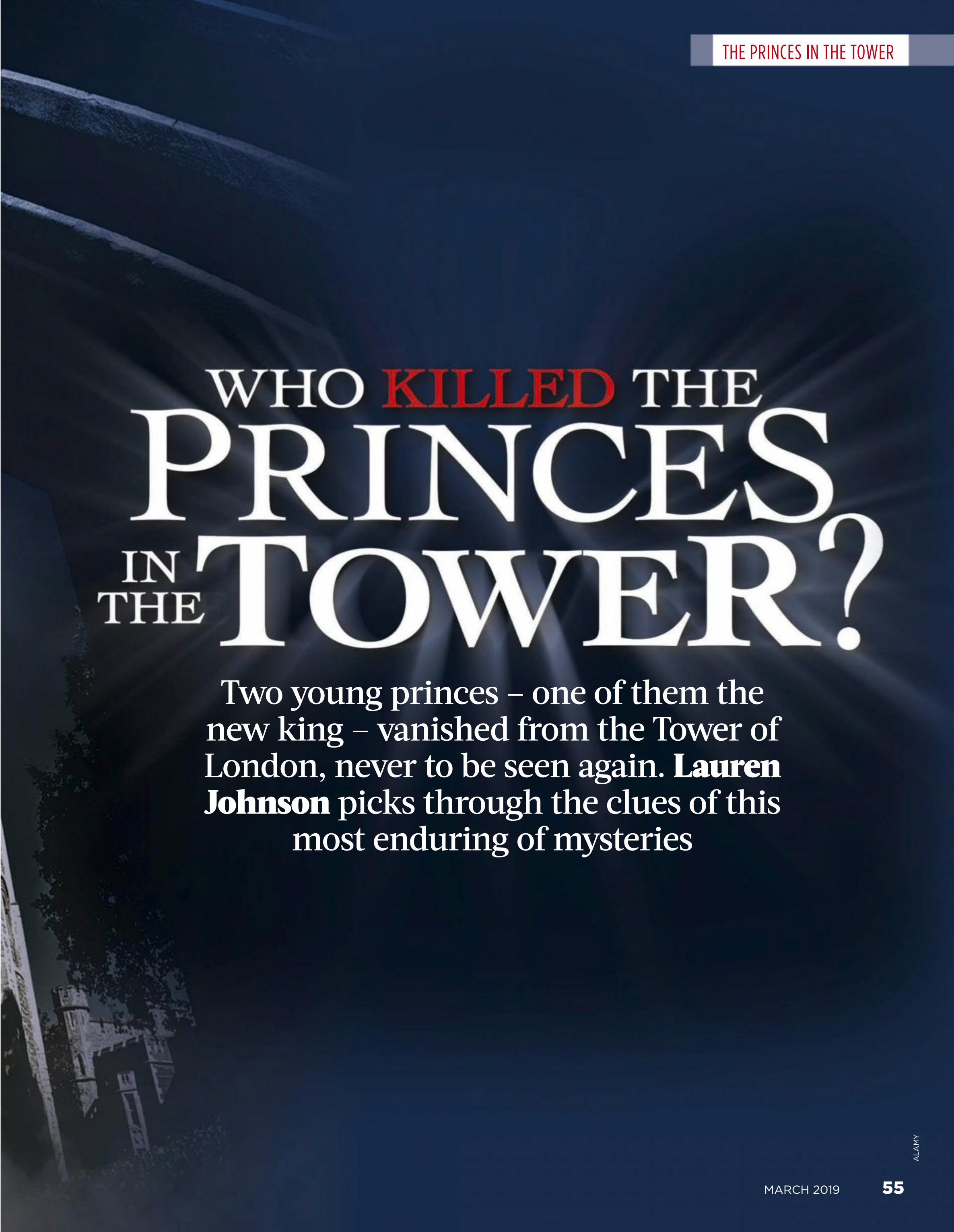
Planters worried about white British abolitionists, like the campaigner William Wilberforce, and yet they also feared their own slaves. Slaves outnumbered whites in every British-Caribbean sugar colony. Slaveholders tried to prevent uprisings through raw terror and complex divide-and-rule tactics, but the abolition of slavery by slaves themselves certainly kept planters like Taylor up at night.

The name of William Wilberforce was reviled by slaveholders





Caught up in  
factional fighting,  
the princes may  
have died at the  
command of their  
uncle, Richard III



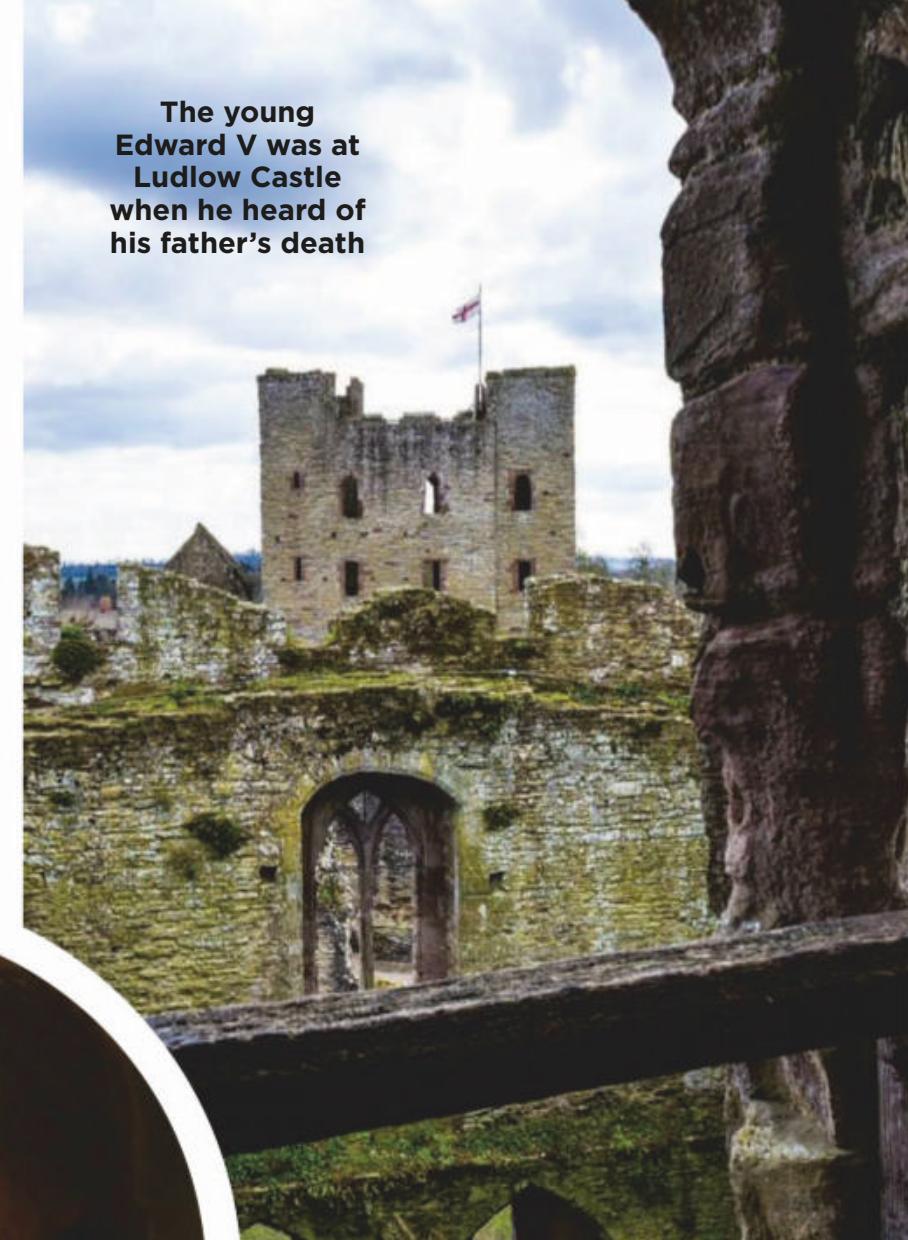
# WHO KILLED THE PRINCES IN THE TOWER?

Two young princes – one of them the new king – vanished from the Tower of London, never to be seen again. **Lauren Johnson** picks through the clues of this most enduring of mysteries

By putting his son in the care of Anthony Woodville (kneeling, second from left), Edward IV thought his line was secure



The young Edward V was at Ludlow Castle when he heard of his father's death



Rebecca Ferguson as Elizabeth Woodville in *The White Queen*

**B**uilding work was being carried out at the Tower of London on Friday, 17 July 1674 when a grisly discovery was made. Among those present was John Knight, chief surgeon to King Charles II. While pulling down a ruined building beside the White Tower, the workmen digging down some stairs found a wooden chest containing the bodies of two children, estimated to be around 11 and 13 years old.

Knight, and other eyewitnesses who handled the broken bones, quickly came to the conclusion that these had to be none other than the remains of the long-lost Princes in the Tower. Finally, after nearly 200 years, it seemed that an enigma at the heart of British history had been resolved.

The two boys now remembered as the 'Princes in the Tower' were the sons of Edward IV and Elizabeth Woodville: Edward V and Richard. A handsome and charismatic ruler, Edward IV of the House of York had seized the throne during the Wars of the Roses, but spent much of his 22-year reign struggling to establish his rule. Nonetheless, by the time he died on 9 April 1483, he appeared to have restored a measure of stability. His eldest son and namesake had trained for his role as king for the past ten years in the marches of Ludlow, while the nine-year-old Prince Richard was already a widower and preparing to be a mighty lord.

But Edward IV's death left their position vulnerable, as there was a worm

## "FACTIONS VIED FOR AUTHORITY OVER THE NEWLY ACCLAIMED CHILD KING EDWARD V"

gnawing at the heart of the body politic: factional fighting for power. The heir was only 12 years old, and a child king was likely to be influenced heavily by those closest to him. Whoever controlled the king, controlled the kingdom, and in 1483, two rival factions vied for authority over the newly acclaimed Edward V. One 'Woodville' clan was led by his mother Queen Elizabeth Woodville, while a more disparate collection of interests focused around Edward IV's brother Richard, Duke of Gloucester.

### A FAMILY AFFAIR

The Woodvilles appeared to have the upper hand for not only did Queen Elizabeth have her younger son Richard in her care, but her brother Anthony

Woodville had the new king Edward V in his keeping at Ludlow. It is possible that in his dying days, Edward IV made efforts to balance the rivalries, perhaps even declaring that his son and heir should remain with Anthony Woodville, one of his uncles, while the Duke of Gloucester, another uncle, serve as Lord Protector until Edward V was old enough to rule for himself. That was not to be the case as Edward IV's will went missing and exactly what form of government he had hoped to establish was soon overtaken by events.

On 30 April 1483, at Stony Stratford, Richard, Duke of Gloucester, and his ally the Duke of Buckingham had Anthony Woodville arrested and took possession of the young king. When word of this coup reached Elizabeth, she fled with her younger son and five daughters into sanctuary at Westminster Abbey. There they remained as spring gave way to summer, and her fears of Richard's intentions increased.

Edward V's coronation was repeatedly delayed, despite Richard having escorted him to the Tower of London – the traditional residence of a monarch before being crowned – in readiness. Then at a chaotic meeting of the royal council on 13 June, Richard levelled accusations of treason against those he said were conspiring against him, which were followed by a spate of arrests and the summary beheading of the late king's chamberlain, William Lord Hastings. London roiled with anxiety, city watches patrolled the streets by torchlight, and

# KEY CHARACTERS

The powerful leaders and exploited pawns who defined an ever-changing era of rival factions, switching sides and pretenders



## PRINCES EDWARD AND RICHARD

Edward – born in Westminster Abbey as his mother sought sanctuary from the Lancastrians – was brought up to rule. As Prince of Wales, he received an apprenticeship in kingship from his uncle Anthony Woodville. His brother Richard was made Duke of York and married to an equally young, but wealthy heiress. Edward and Richard were aged only 12 and nine respectively when they disappeared.

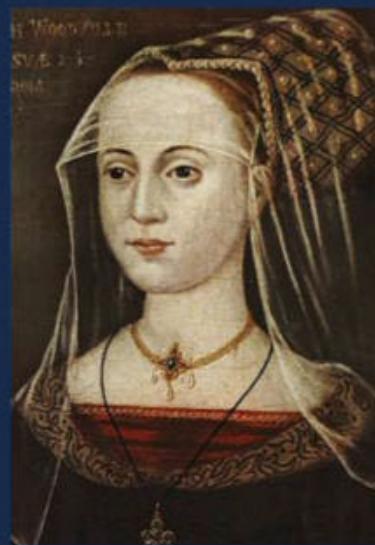


## EDWARD IV

Having won the throne at the bloody Battle of Towton in 1461, and reclaimed it in 1471 after being briefly deposed, Edward IV was a charismatic king. Yet he was criticised for his fondness for women and food – and he could be ruthless, ordering the execution of his rebellious brother George, Duke of Clarence, and probably murdering his Lancastrian rival Henry VI. Yet through such authoritative, occasionally merciless, activity, he united a divided country.

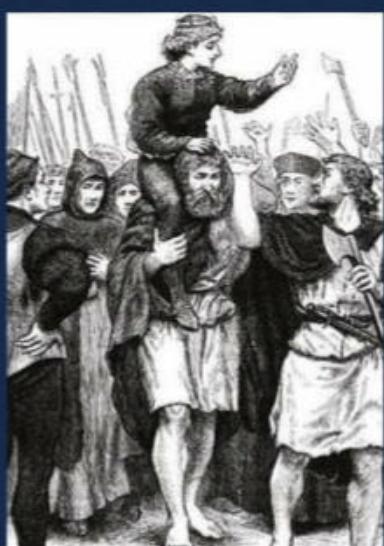
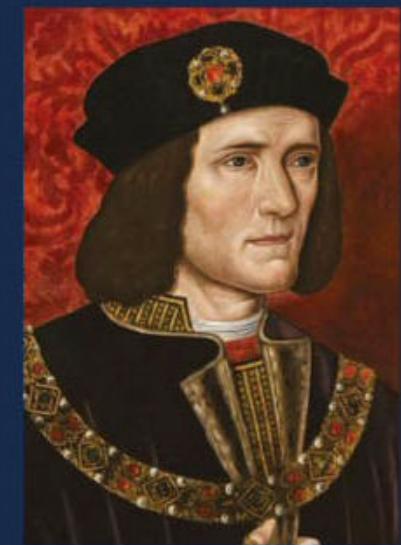
## QUEEN ELIZABETH WOODVILLE

When she secretly married Edward IV in 1464, Elizabeth was a widow with two sons, but the illicit union and her acquisitive family alienated royal advisers. Although she resisted Richard III in 1483, Elizabeth eventually came to terms with him to protect her daughters. Her eldest with Edward, Elizabeth of York, would later marry Henry Tudor and she retreated from court, dying in Bermondsey Abbey.



## RICHARD III

Richard, Duke of Gloucester, was the youngest brother of Edward IV and his loyal lieutenant. A veteran of battles since his teens, Richard was well liked in his northern powerbase, but his usurpation of the throne in 1483 turned opinion against him, with accusations during his lifetime that he had murdered his own nephews, Edward and Richard. His wife and heir died during his brief reign, and Richard was killed fighting Henry Tudor at Bosworth in 1485.



## LAMBERT SIMNEL

From obscure and humble origins, Lambert Simnel was put forward by ambitious priest Richard Symonds as the vanished Prince Richard, and then the Yorkist Earl of Warwick. Simnel presented a very real threat to Henry VII's regime. In 1487, he won Irish, English and Continental support and landed with an army in Lancashire. Henry suppressed the rising at the Battle of Stoke Field and chose to spare Simnel, putting him to work as a scullion and falconer in his service.



## HENRY STAFFORD, DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM

A contemporary London chronicler claimed that "King Edward's sons were put to death by the vise of the Duke of Buckingham". The royal-blooded, ambitious Buckingham was an ally of Richard III during the coup to seize the throne, but had grown disgruntled with the new regime by October 1483. He raised a doomed rebellion and was executed as a traitor.

## PERKIN WARBECK

Born in Tournai, the teenage Warbeck had an adventurous life even before he became a pretender to the throne as he travelled widely with merchants. In 1491, he was persuaded by Yorkists in Cork – who saw him dressed in fine robes, like a royal – to impersonate the missing Prince Richard. His story was supported by European powers, notably Margaret of Burgundy. He was captured in 1497 and treated well, but, after escape attempts, he was hanged.



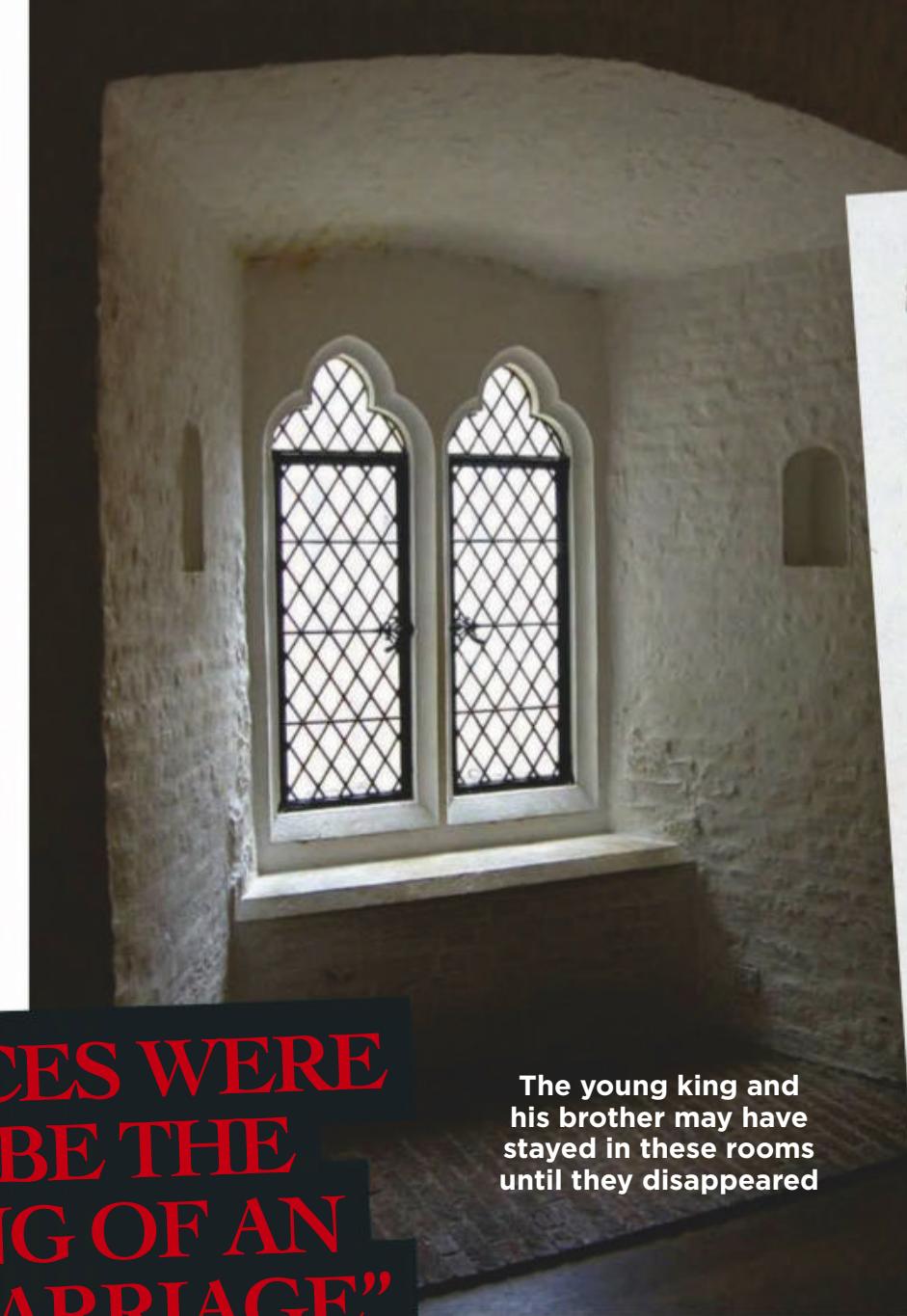
## HENRY VII

The son of Margaret Beaufort, he inherited her distant Lancastrian royal blood. Henry spent 14 years in exile before returning to successfully challenge Richard III for the throne in 1485. A secretive, controlling king, Henry faced rebellion, pretenders and ended his reign very unpopular with his cash-strapped subjects. But he succeeded where the Yorkists had not: his teenage son Henry VIII peacefully succeeded in 1509.





## “THE PRINCES WERE SAID TO BE THE OFFSPRING OF AN INVALID MARRIAGE”



rumours abounded that the lives of both Edward V and the Duke of Gloucester were in danger. Richard, now Lord Protector, dispatched urgent messages to his supporters in the north summoning weapons and soldiers to his aid.

The scene changed again on 16 June, when Elizabeth finally released the younger Prince Richard into the Duke

of Gloucester's custody, but only after the Archbishop of Canterbury stood as surety for his safety. The two princes were reunited in the Tower. Edward V's coronation was postponed, however, the very next day, this time until the winter. Then Anthony Woodville was executed for treason on 25 June, by command of the Lord Protector.

The most shocking event was yet to come, though. A week after the two princes were brought together in the Tower, a sermon was preached at St Paul's Cross stating that, to the astonishment and indignation of the assembled Londoners, the princes had no claim to the throne. They were, the preacher Ralph Shaa insisted, the offspring of an invalid marriage, for Edward IV had been secretly contracted to another woman, named Eleanor Butler, at the time of his marriage to Elizabeth Woodville. If the princes were

## TRACING A MURDER MYSTERY

**1461**

▼ In the Wars of the Roses, Edward of the House of York becomes king. The Lancastrian Henry VI is deposed and eventually imprisoned in the Tower of London, where he dies.



**1464**

▼ Edward IV secretly marries Elizabeth Woodville, a widow with two sons. The marriage is seen as unacceptable by his advisers, but she is crowned as queen the following year.



**9 APRIL 1483**

▼ Edward IV dies, leaving two sons and five surviving daughters. The eldest prince, still only 12 years old, is proclaimed King Edward V.



**30 APRIL 1483**

Edward V is taken into the custody of his uncle, Richard, Duke of Gloucester. When news of this reaches Edward's mother Elizabeth Woodville, she flees into sanctuary with her other children.



**16 JUNE 1483**

▲ After being guaranteed safekeeping, Prince Richard joins his brother in the Tower of London. That summer, the boys are seen shooting in the Tower gardens.



In a single sermon, Dr Ralph Shaa (seen here as Shaw) convinced enough people to turn on the princes



Richard III was one of Shakespeare's greatest villains; he is included in this memorial in Stratford-upon-Avon

## DOCTOR SHAW Preaching at St. Paul's Cross.

to be declared as illegitimate, then that meant the true king was their uncle, Richard, Duke of Gloucester.

### ILLEGITIMATE KING

The claim of Edward V's illegitimacy was taken up and reiterated in a speech by the Duke of Buckingham in front of another throng of London's citizens, this time at the Guildhall. In a bid to convince the mayor and other influential figures, he denounced the Woodvilles and gave his impassioned support for Richard to be seen as the rightful king.

With panic mounting and a northern army marching south to support Richard, the 'three estates' of England – the noblemen, clergy and commons – united against the princes. On 26 June, just a couple of days after Buckingham's speech, they appealed to Richard to take the throne, pronouncing the princes illegitimate. Edward V would henceforth be known merely as 'Edward Bastard'. On 6 July 1483, his uncle was crowned King Richard III.

That summer, an Italian cleric named Dominic Mancini was visiting London. He left for France shortly after the

### DID YOU KNOW?

Edward IV and Richard III had another brother, George, Duke of Clarence. In 1478, he was executed for treason against his older sibling by – it was claimed – being drowned in a butt of malmsey wine.

coronation and penned a report that autumn – most commonly referred to as *The Usurpation of Richard the Third* – regarding the remarkable events surrounding the princes in the Tower. Their attendants had been removed from them in June, he recalled, and the princes themselves had "withdrawn into the inner apartments of the Tower proper, and day by day began to be seen more rarely behind the bars and windows, until at length they ceased to appear altogether."

The princes were not the first royal claimants to enter the Tower of London never to emerge alive. In 1471, the

### 22 JUNE 1483

Dr Ralph Shaa preaches a sermon at St Paul's Cross, a pulpit just outside the cathedral in London, claiming that Edward IV's marriage to Elizabeth was invalid, making Edward V illegitimate, and the Duke of Gloucester the rightful king.

### 26 JUNE 1483

With the princes seen as illegitimate, Richard is offered the crown by an assembly of nobles, clergy and commoners.

### 6 JULY 1483

▼ Richard III is crowned in a joint coronation ceremony with his wife, Anne Neville.



### OCTOBER 1483

Rebellion breaks out, led by Richard III's one-time ally the Duke of Buckingham and Henry Tudor. It is widely reported the princes are dead.



### AUGUST 1485

▲ Richard III is killed at the Battle of Bosworth and Henry Tudor takes the throne as Henry VII. The next year, he marries the princes' sister, Elizabeth of York.

## PRINCES IN THE (BLOODY) TOWER

The history of the Tower of London is long and filled with gruesome details, but only one of the outer towers has become known as the 'Bloody Tower' – the one associated with the princes. In the 15th century, this gateway between the inner and outer wards was known as the 'Garden Tower', as it bordered the garden of the Lieutenant's Lodgings. This appears to match the report of a contemporary London chronicle that the princes were seen "shooting and playing in the garden" during their imprisonment.

But it does not match the chronicle's claim that the princes had been kept "within the king's lodging" at the Tower. The royal apartments were further east, securely within the innermost ward, and sure enough

a garden lay at the bottom of the Lanthorn Tower there. This seems a far more suitable location for princes, especially once they became captives.

A gateway like the Bloody Tower, with its heavy through-traffic, hardly seems ideal for such highly sensitive political prisoners. Previous high-status inmates were incarcerated further inside. John Balliol, the Scottish king imprisoned by Edward I from 1296-99, was kept in the Salt Tower, a mural enclosure far removed from possible escape routes. And the White Tower, right at the heart of the fortress, served as prison for both King John 'the Good' of France and Charles, Duke of Orleans, a prisoner of war captured at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415.

Deposed Lancastrian King Henry VI had died while imprisoned there. His Yorkist captors claimed the cause of death was "pure displeasure and melancholy", but Henry's corpse was seen to bleed in the city streets as it was conveyed towards burial. Displaying the body of a fallen foe in this way, even if you did not publicly acknowledge your role in their death, was commonplace in the Wars of the Roses. As well as ordering that Henry VI's body be exhibited in London "open-visaged" (with his face visible), Edward IV had commanded that the naked corpse of his rebel kinsman Warwick 'the Kingmaker' be left on display at St Paul's.

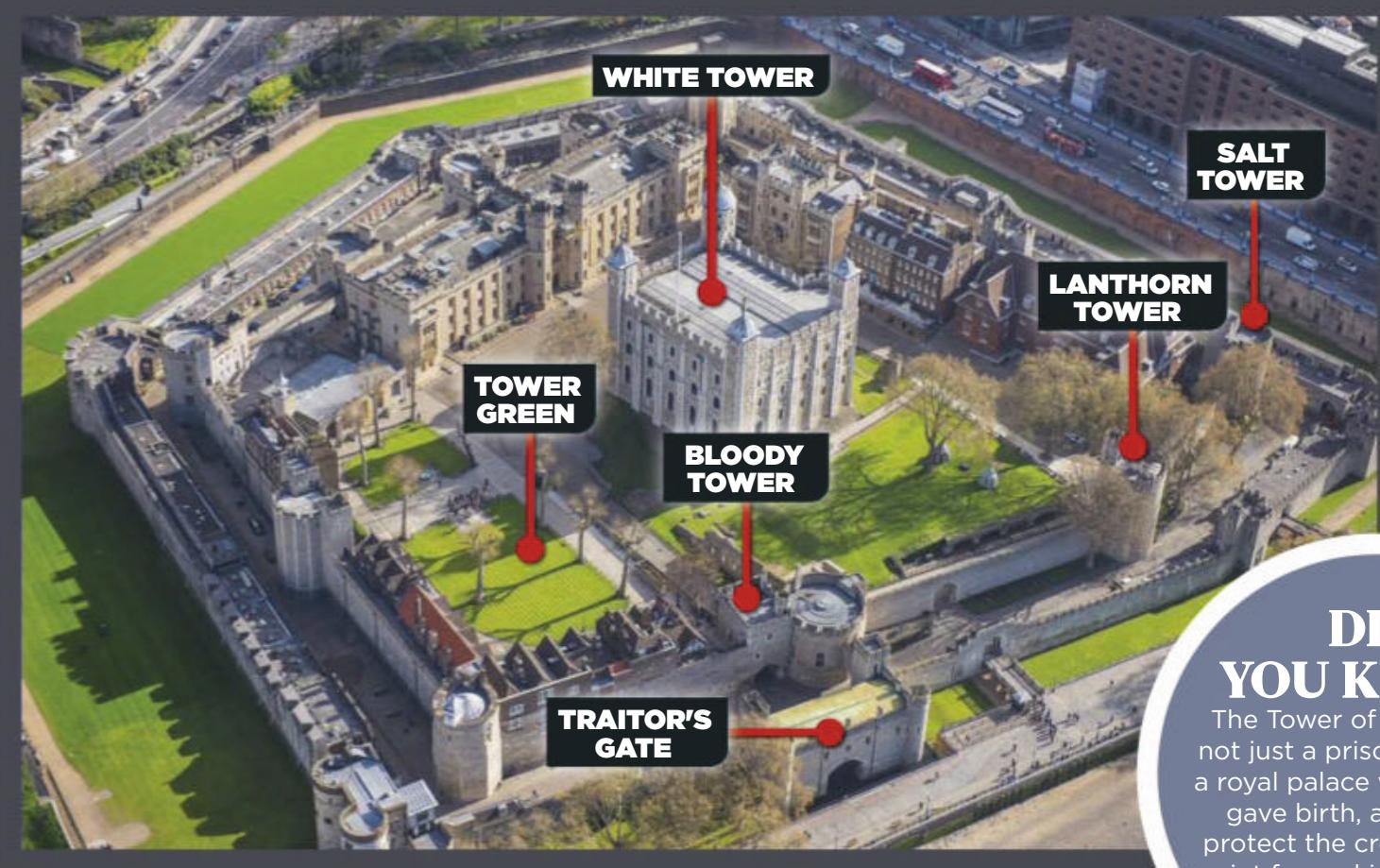
### PRINCES DISAPPEAR

There were no such morbid memorial parades for the two young princes in the Tower. They simply disappeared, leaving a lingering unease about their fate. Whispers soon spread that they had been murdered – smothered with a feather-bed, perhaps, or poisoned.

In his account, Mancini related that even before Richard III was crowned, mention of the princes inspired grown men to pitying tears, for "already there was a suspicion that he [Edward V] had been done away with." He also recorded the words of a physician who attended Edward V in the Tower: "The young king, like a victim prepared for sacrifice, sought remission of his sins by daily confession and penance, because he believed that death was facing him."

In his calendar for the year ending 15 September 1483, the Bristolian Robert Ricart similarly suggested that "the two sons of King Edward were put to silence in the Tower of London."

Gradually, rumours about the



### DID YOU KNOW?

The Tower of London was not just a prison: it was also a royal palace where queens gave birth, a fortress to protect the crown jewels, a mint for making coins, and contained a menagerie of animals.

## TRACING A MURDER MYSTERY

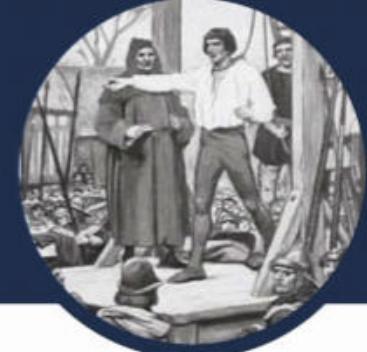
### 16 JUNE 1487

▼ The Yorkist attempt to overthrow Henry VII, and place the pretender Lambert Simnel on the throne, ends with the defeat of their 8,000-strong army at the Battle of Stoke Field.



### 1491-9

▼ Henry VII contends with another pretender when Perkin Warbeck claims to be one of the princes, Richard. His rebellion ends in failure and his execution.



### 1502

▼ Condemned traitor Sir James Tyrrell makes a dubious confession that he murdered the princes on the orders of Richard III, and hid their bodies in the Tower.



### 1513-18

▼ Thomas More writes *The History of King Richard III*, suggesting the princes were murdered and secretly buried under a staircase – then later moved elsewhere in the Tower.



### 1592-94

► William Shakespeare writes *The Tragedy of King Richard III*, in which the princes' murderers are ordered by Richard III and carried out by Tyrrell. Their burial place is not identified.





Enduring interest with the princes has inspired many works of art, including this statue

## "RICHARD III WAS UNABLE TO SHAKE THE DARK LEGACY OF THE COUP"

princes' deaths spread overseas, being reported from Poland to France, and there was a name put forward as the most likely identity of the murderer: their uncle, and usurper, Richard III. Such belief would fuel a rebellion against his rule in October 1483.

It united surprisingly disparate forces, including the late Edward IV's followers, Queen Elizabeth, the Lancastrian-born Margaret Beaufort and her exiled son Henry Tudor, and even the Duke of Buckingham – the man who had recently been one of Richard's most

public supporters. Such a cohesion of unnatural allies, and their focus on the decidedly distant royal claimant Henry Tudor as a rival to Richard's throne, would not have been possible without a widespread acceptance of the princes' demise in the Tower.

That rebellion failed, but Richard III was unable to shake the dark legacy of the coup that brought him to power. In August 1485, on Bosworth battlefield, he was defeated and killed by Henry Tudor, which was seen as apparent proof of divine favour for the Lancastrian.



Henry's great victory at Bosworth is a favourite for re-enactments

The accession of King Henry VII ought to have drawn a line under the troubling rumours about the princes. Their 'usurper' had been killed and, in a politically astute display of unity, Henry married the princes' eldest sister, Elizabeth of York, to bring together their warring dynasties. Although, he did wait for nearly three months to pass from his coronation, lest he be considered king by dint of his wife.

As soon as he was king, though, the question of the princes' fate might have been settled. Henry could have produced the boys' bodies from the Tower and taken them for honourable burial, or revealed that they still lived.



### 1610s

Reports begin to circulate of the discovery of secret, walled-up chambers containing children's skeletons inside the Tower.

### 17 JULY 1674

► Two skeletons are found by workmen under a stair by the White Tower. They are buried in Westminster Abbey as the lost 'princes'.

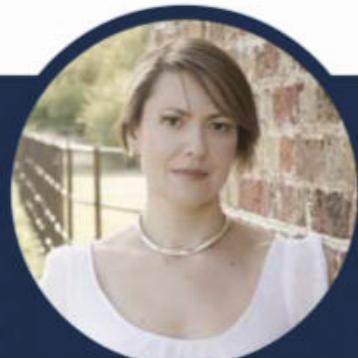


### 1933

The skeletons are examined and identified as the princes. However, the findings have been called into question in recent times, especially as the sex of the skeletons had not been investigated.

### 2018

▲ Elizabeth Roberts, a new descendant of the princes' grandmother, Jaquette of Luxembourg, is traced. Calls for the Westminster remains to be re-examined for a DNA match have been denied.



## ARE THE SKELETONS THE PRINCES?

As well as the two skeletons discovered in 1674, a number of other remains have been found inside the Tower of London over the centuries, which only further the mystery of the boys' fate.

In the early 17th century, there were curious reports of walled-up chambers in which skeletons were discovered, while an account from the time Sir Walter Raleigh was imprisoned at the Tower mentions a hollow-sounding wall, which led to a secret room with the skeletons of two children lying on a table. Another version of the story described a chamber in which "upon a bed two little carcasses" were found "with two halters around their necks". In both reports, the room was then mured up again so as not to revive the memory of the princes' deaths.

Most recently, in 1977, archaeologists discovered a young male skeleton in the southeast corner of the inmost ward of the Tower, on the site of the medieval palace. This would, at one time, have seemed highly suggestive. Yet radio carbon dating established that the skeleton came from c70 AD, meaning it cannot be one of the princes.

Although this level of forensic testing has never been applied to the remains discovered in 1674, they were examined in 1933 by an archivist, an anatomist and the president of the British Dental Association. This examination conclusively identified the remains as being the princes in the Tower, but its findings are now rejected by many, not least because no attempt was made to establish if the two sets of bones were related to each other.

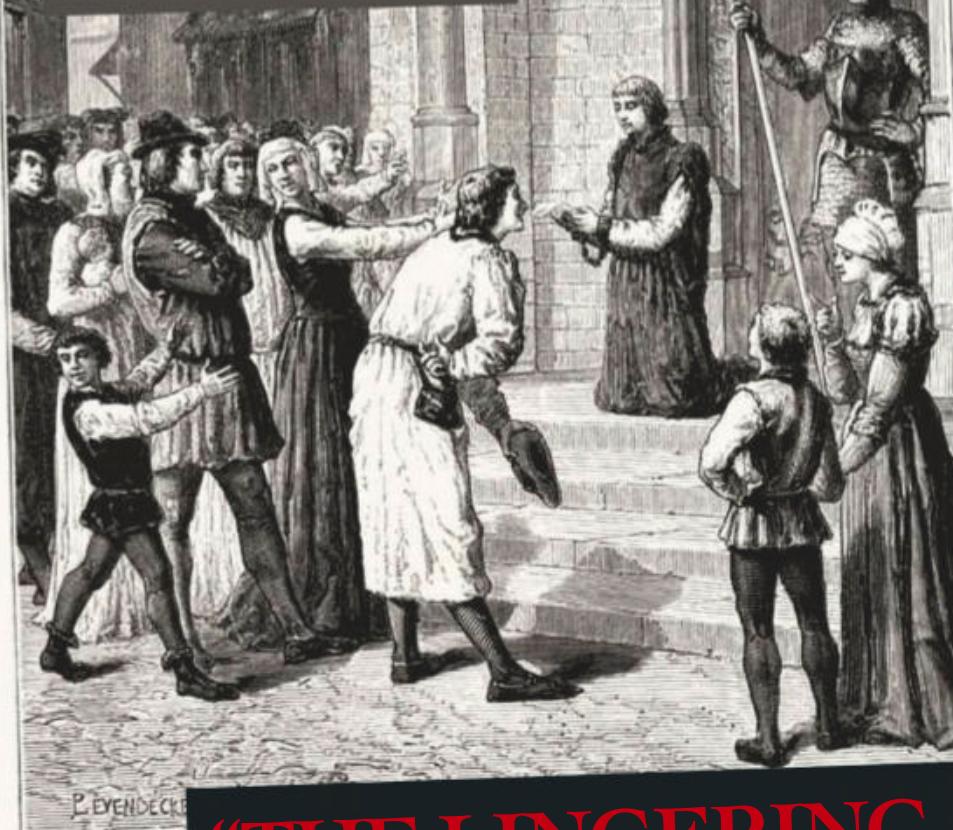
Forensic science has progressed to the point where radio carbon dating could determine a probable date of death for the skeletons, and mitochondrial DNA could resolve the question of their identity. But for such testing to occur, the remains in Westminster would have to be once again disturbed. So far, both Westminster Abbey and Buckingham Palace have refused permission.

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One of the jaws discovered in 1674, which could hold the key to establishing the body's identity

Perkin Warbeck reads out his confession saying he was not one of the missing princes



## “THE LINGERING UNCERTAINTY OVER THE PRINCES LEFT HENRY VII'S REGIME VULNERABLE”

He did neither. Was it because he could not, or would not? Like Richard III, the lingering uncertainty over the princes left his regime vulnerable – not to charges of murder, but to the possibility they had survived and could challenge him for the throne.

Henry's enemies took advantage of this situation. As early as 1487, an Oxfordshire teenager named Lambert Simnel was briefly put forward masquerading as Prince Richard, before instead claiming to be the Yorkist Earl of Warwick. To quell support for Simnel, Henry VII paraded the real Earl of Warwick through the streets of London, before safely depositing him back in his cell at the Tower and defeating Simnel's supporters in battle.

But the spectre of Prince Richard arose again in late 1491, and this time, the threat was to endure. According to the story he spun to the powers of Europe, 'Prince Richard' – in reality Perkin Warbeck of Tournai – had escaped the Tower with the aid of a powerful lord. Warbeck was convincing enough that he won the support of a wide array of European princes, including the king of Scotland and Edward IV's sister Margaret, duchess of Burgundy. It took Henry years to bring the ghost to heel. Only in October 1497, as the rebel army melted away, did the pretender-prince confess that he was really a continental official's son. Under his real name, and with a final public confession of his

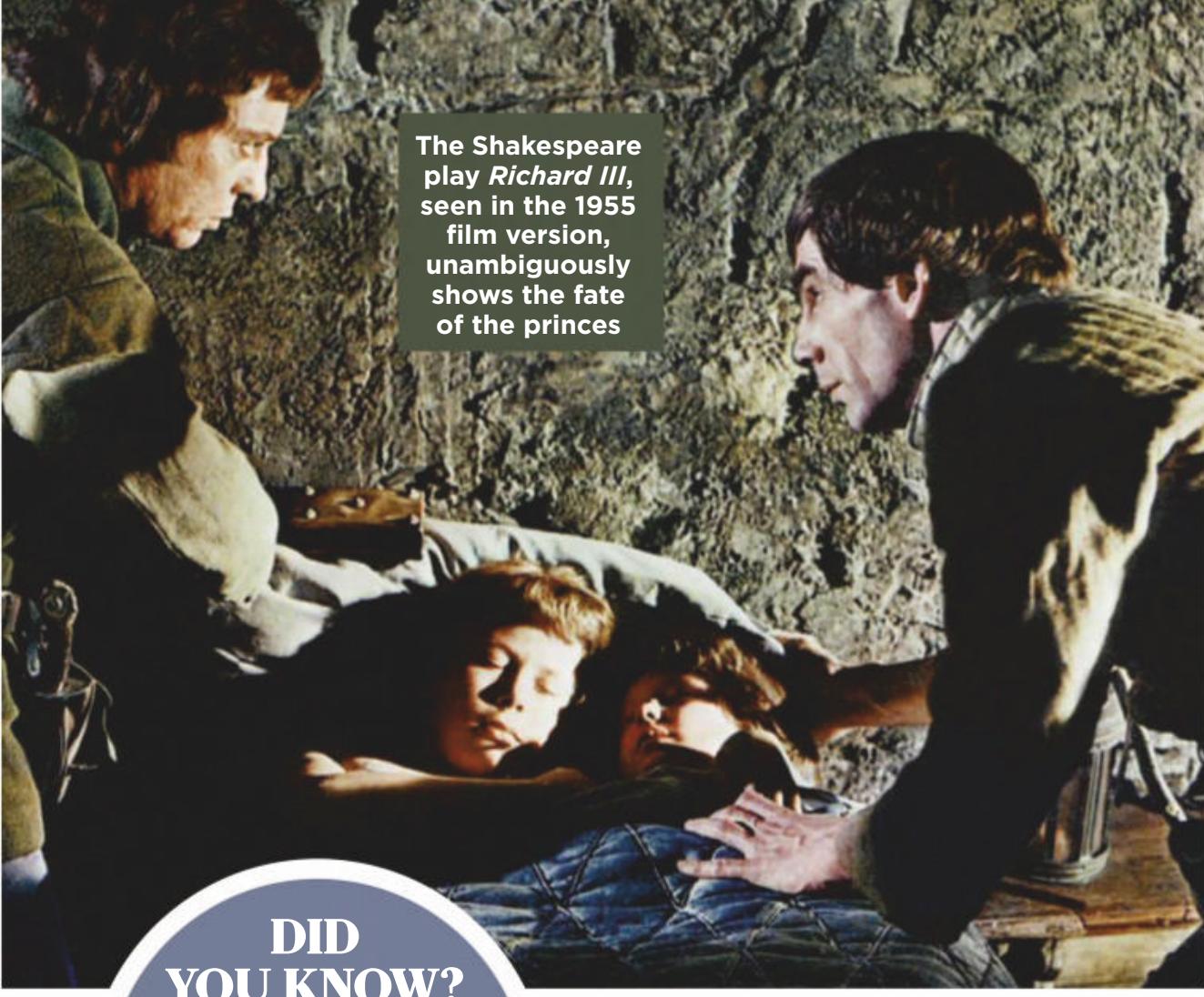
subterfuge, Perkin Warbeck was hanged as a traitor in 1499.

Nonetheless, some have claimed that the princes could indeed have escaped, pointing to a royal warrant providing clothing for 'lord bastard' in 1485. In fact, this probably referred to Richard III's illegitimate son John. Henry VII certainly had no desire to foster the notion that royal rivals could still be alive, and if their remains were discovered during his reign, he would have been equally reluctant to remind his subjects of his own dynastically weak royal claim by publicly commemorating the princes.

### COMPELLING CLUES

Perhaps to ensure no more pretenders rose up against him, Henry VII extracted and disseminated a confession from condemned traitor Sir James Tyrrell that he had murdered the princes on Richard's orders. The confession in 1502 was reported by contemporaries, most enduringly by Thomas More.

In his *History of King Richard III*, he went further, claiming that to hide evidence of the crime, the murderer buried the princes at the foot of a staircase, "deep in the ground under a great heap of stones". Later, More claimed, a priest connected to the Constable of the Tower dug up and reburied them in an unknown location. These stories were interwoven to dramatic effect by William Shakespeare at the end of the Tudor period, forging



The Shakespeare play *Richard III*, seen in the 1955 film version, unambiguously shows the fate of the princes

## DID YOU KNOW?

The 17th-century historian – and defender of Richard III – Sir George Buck claimed that bones found in the Tower were not those of Edward V, but an ape that escaped the menagerie and died in a turret.



The tombs of Henry VII and his wife Elizabeth reside in the same chapel of Westminster Abbey as the urn containing the 'princes' bones

a lasting narrative of Richard III as a callous murderer of children.

Then in 1674, the mystery of the princes' disappearance finally seemed resolved. During building work beside the White Tower, the "bones of two striplings" were discovered buried three metres beneath a staircase. This eerie echo of More's story was too compelling to ignore. The remains were proclaimed to be those of the murdered boys, and, in 1678, interred in an urn in Westminster Abbey. The discovery was undeniably timely for the then-king, Charles II, whose own father had been murdered in the midst of civil war, and was facing ongoing wrangling with parliament about the royal succession. The princes' story served as a reminder to his restive subjects of the dangers of deposition and of opposing the true succession.

But a question mark hangs over the Westminster Abbey sarcophagus, where

these bones reside in a Christopher Wren monument. They are far from the only bones of adolescents found in the Tower of London in the centuries since the princes disappeared, and examination of the remains has only once been undertaken since the 17th century. Even then, the findings were far from satisfactory.

It is possible the princes have still not been found. Despite attempts by monarchs and writers either to silence the enigma of the princes, or spin the tale of their disappearance for their own ends, the mystery endures. Perhaps it always will. ☀

### GET HOOKED

Dr Lauren Johnson's biography of Henry VI, *Shadow King: the Life and Death of Henry VI* (Head of Zeus, 2019) is out on 7 March.



## CHILD RULERS: THE GOOD AND THE BAD



**Henry III (1216–72)**

AGE AT ACCESSION: 9 years

FATE: He overcame a revolt in the 1230s and had a reign that lasted more than 50 years



**Edward III (1327–77)**

AGE AT ACCESSION: 14 years

FATE: Started the Hundred Years' War and restored order through military successes



**Richard II (1377–99)**

AGE AT ACCESSION: 10 years

FATE: Deposed by his cousin, Henry IV, and starved to death in Pontefract Castle



**Henry VI (1422–61; 1470–71)**

AGE AT ACCESSION: 9 months

FATE: Also proclaimed King of France, but lost Normandy and England – twice



**Edward V (1483)**

AGE AT ACCESSION: 12 years

FATE: Unknown



**Edward VI (1547–53)**

AGE AT ACCESSION: 9 years

FATE: Made religious reforms, but was succeeded by his Catholic sister, Mary



**Mary Queen of Scots (1542–67)**

AGE AT ACCESSION: 6 days

FATE: Forced to abdicate, Mary sought shelter in England and was executed



**James VI and I (1567–1625)**

AGE AT ACCESSION: 13 months (Scotland)

FATE: Ruled Scotland for 36 years, then inherited the English and Irish crowns from Elizabeth I



**778 DAYS**

Although he is one of the most famous kings in English history, Richard III ruled for only two years



**1 METRE**

The usual depth of medieval graves, but...



**191 YEARS**

The number of years after the princes disappeared that two children's skeletons were found under a staircase at the Tower



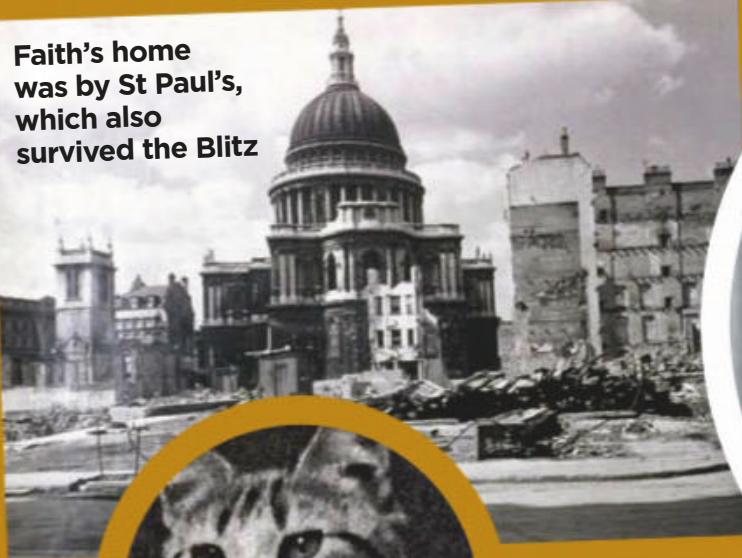
**60CM**

The depth of some burials within the chapel of St Peter ad Vincula at the Tower of London

# Top cats!

Our pick of history's record-breaking and most fearless felines – the indisputable leaders of the gang

Faith's home was by St Paul's, which also survived the Blitz



## FAITH

During the Blitz, one brave tabby seemed to have a life-saving premonition. Faith had been adopted by the rector of St Augustine Church, near St Paul's when, in early September 1940, she was seen carrying her kitten, Panda, down to the church basement. Although the kitten was returned upstairs several times, Faith kept taking him away again. A few days later, on 9 September, a bombing raid destroyed the church, leaving just the tower. Firefighters believed nothing could have survived. Yet Faith and Panda were found cuddled up amongst smouldering timber and rubble. She was awarded a medal for courage by the PDSA, presented by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

## UNSINKABLE SAM

It is said that cats have nine lives – if so, one particularly lucky (and possibly apocryphal) moggy in World War II used a few of his. In May 1941, the German battleship *Bismarck* was sunk, with only around 110 of the 2,300-strong crew surviving. But from the water, a cat was rescued by the crew of HMS *Cossack*, who named him Oscar. The *Cossack* then suffered a torpedo attack and sank near Gibraltar. Oscar survived again – and became 'Unsinkable Sam' – but bad luck still stalked the poor cat. He was picked up by the HMS *Ark Royal*, which was later torpedoed near Malta. With Oscar/Sam having lived through three sinkings in just six months, it was decided he had seen enough of the sea and was sent to a seamen's home.



Only one man – and zero cats – died when *Ark Royal* sank

Simon was found with his whiskers burned off and hurt by four pieces of shrapnel. The medical officer thought he wouldn't survive the night



## MRS CHIPPY

Mrs Chippy was a ship's cat, but on no ordinary ship: Sir Ernest Shackleton's *Endurance*. The striped tabby Mrs Chippy belonged to carpenter Harry 'Chippy' McNeish – it would be a month into the voyage before he realised his cat was actually male. Sadly, after the ship got stuck in the ice, Mrs Chippy was shot as it was determined that he could not survive. McNeish would eventually reunite with his beloved Mrs Chippy, in a way, when a statue of the cat was placed on his grave in New Zealand.

Wilberforce caused problems with Thatcher's press secretary, who was allergic to cats



The police officer posted outside No 10 was instructed to ring the bell when Wilberforce wanted to come in

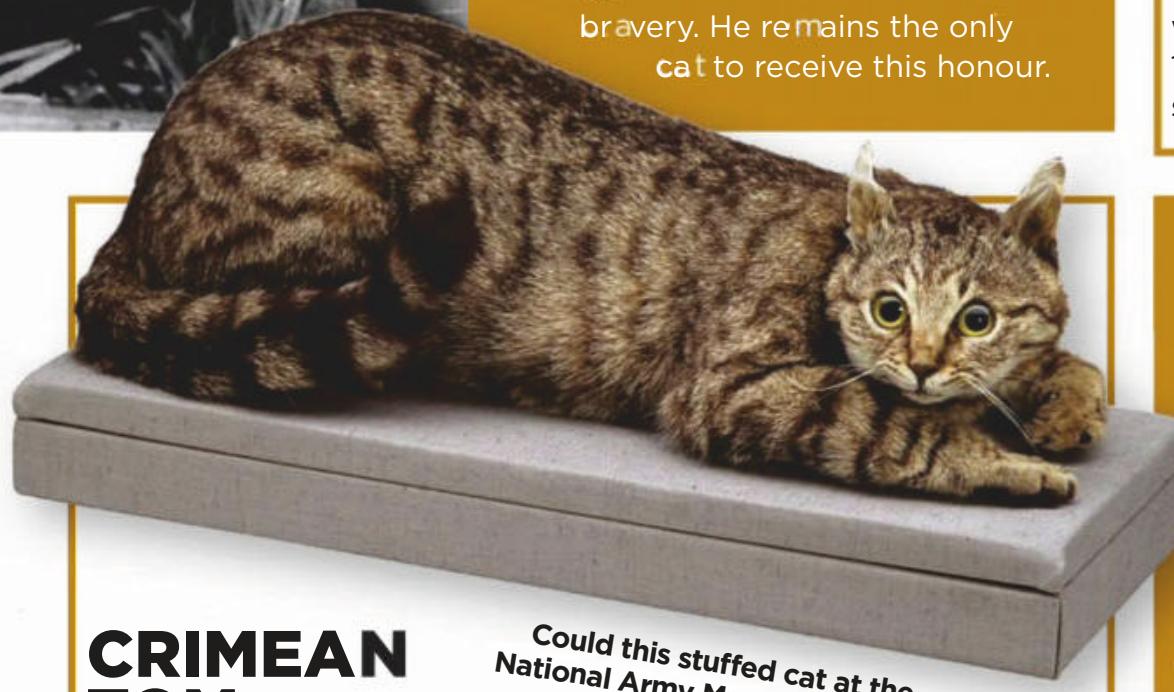
## WILBERFORCE

No 10 Downing Street has been home to the British Prime Minister for nearly 300 years, but such an old building doesn't come without its fair share of issues. Rats and mice have long been a recurring problem, requiring a Chief Mouser to be in residence. Wilberforce is believed to have held the role for the longest time so far, serving under a total of four Prime Ministers, from Edward Heath through to Margaret Thatcher. He was reported to be excellent in his role.

Simon remains the only cat to have been awarded the 'animals' VC'

## SIMON

In April 1949, during the Chinese Civil War, HMS *Amethyst* was sent up the Yangtze River to protect the British Embassy in Nanking (Nanjing) when it came under fire. The frigate ran aground, resulting in the deaths of 17 crewmen, where it was stuck for three months. Also onboard was a cat named Simon, who, even though he had been injured by a shell blast, continued to protect the food stores by catching rats. He also boosted the men's morale during their ordeal. Simon died three weeks after returning to Britain and was posthumously awarded the PDSA Dickin medal for bravery. He remains the only cat to receive this honour.



## CRIMEAN TOM

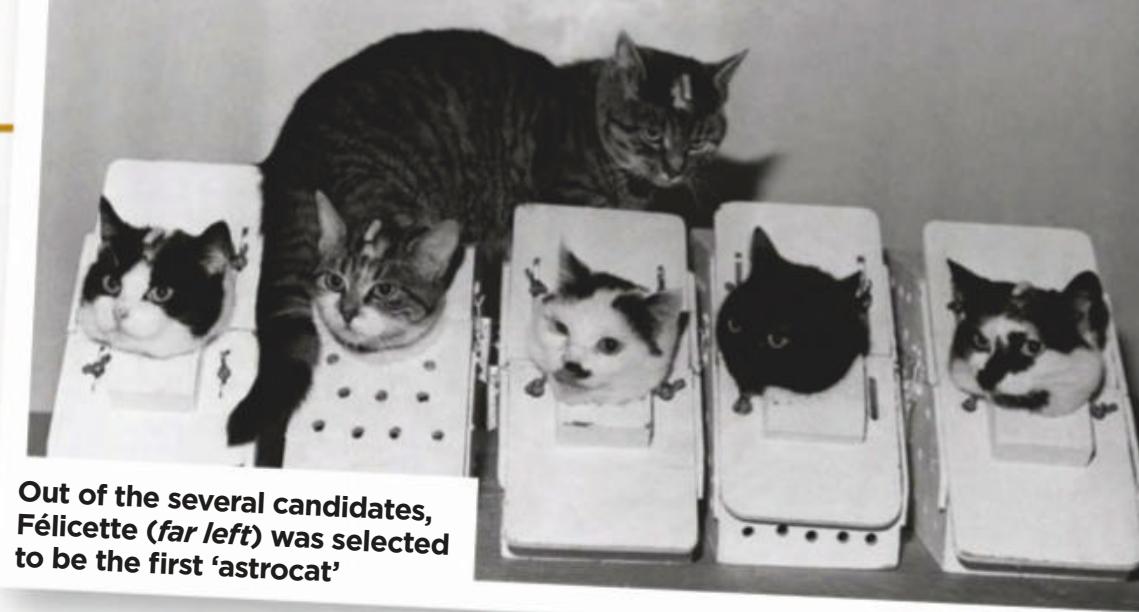
When British and French forces entered the Crimean port of Sevastopol, in September 1855, they were met with a devastated and starving city reeling from a year-long siege. Among the survivors was a cat, rescued by British Lieutenant William Gair and named Crimean Tom. Gair noticed that while everyone around him was desperate for food, Tom seemed well fed. The soldiers followed the cat one day and found a store room full of food, saving the troops from starvation. Tom was brought back to England as a pet by Gair, who later had him stuffed.

## BASTET

Cats were so vital in the fight against food-store-destroying pests in Ancient Egypt that they were regarded as sacred. Gods took the form of a feline, including Bastet. Originally a lioness, but later morphed into a cat, she was the goddess of pregnancy and childbirth. The city of Bubastis became her central worshipping site, where sacred cats were kept in her temple. Such was their love of cats that the Egyptians even mummified their moggies - thousands have been discovered.



A bronze-and-gold Bastet, daughter of the Egyptian sun god Ra and defender of the pharaoh



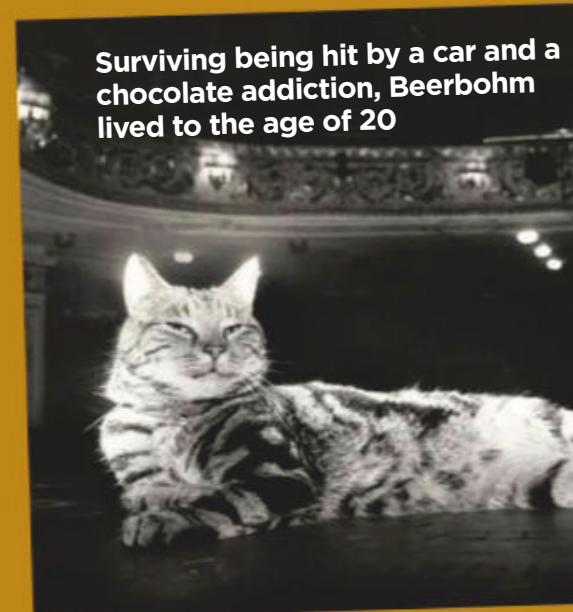
Out of the several candidates, Félicette (far left) was selected to be the first 'astrocat'

## FÉLICETTE

Found on the streets of Paris, Félicette was chosen to go to space, following a dog and chimp. She was put through space training, including compression chamber exercises, and had electrodes surgically inserted into her brain. Félicette was chosen as she was the only potential 'astrocat' to be the correct weight on the launch day. The sub-orbital flight on 18 October 1963 lasted for 13 minutes, before Félicette returned to Earth safely. Although she was later killed for more tests.

## BEERBOHM

Of course, every cat is the star of whatever room they are in, but Beerbohm was intent on being famous. The resident cat at the Gielgud Theatre in London (then called the Globe), he was renowned for walking into dressing rooms and attacking props. The craft cat even tread the boards himself as he wandered across the stage during performances. Perhaps he had his heart set on an acting career? He is the only cat to have received a front-page obituary in *The Stage*.



## THE CATERER

Cats may have a reputation for being less loyal than dogs, but Sir Henry Wyatt would probably disagree. The English courtier made an enemy of Richard III and, according to family legend, was imprisoned, possibly in the Tower of London. He only survived by befriending a cat who brought him food such as pigeons. The cat became known as Wyatt's caterer. When Henry VII ascended the throne, Wyatt was released. A memorial to Wyatt sits in St Mary the Virgin and All Saints Church, Maidstone, crediting his survival to the cat.



Wyatt went on to serve Henry VII and Henry VIII

**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

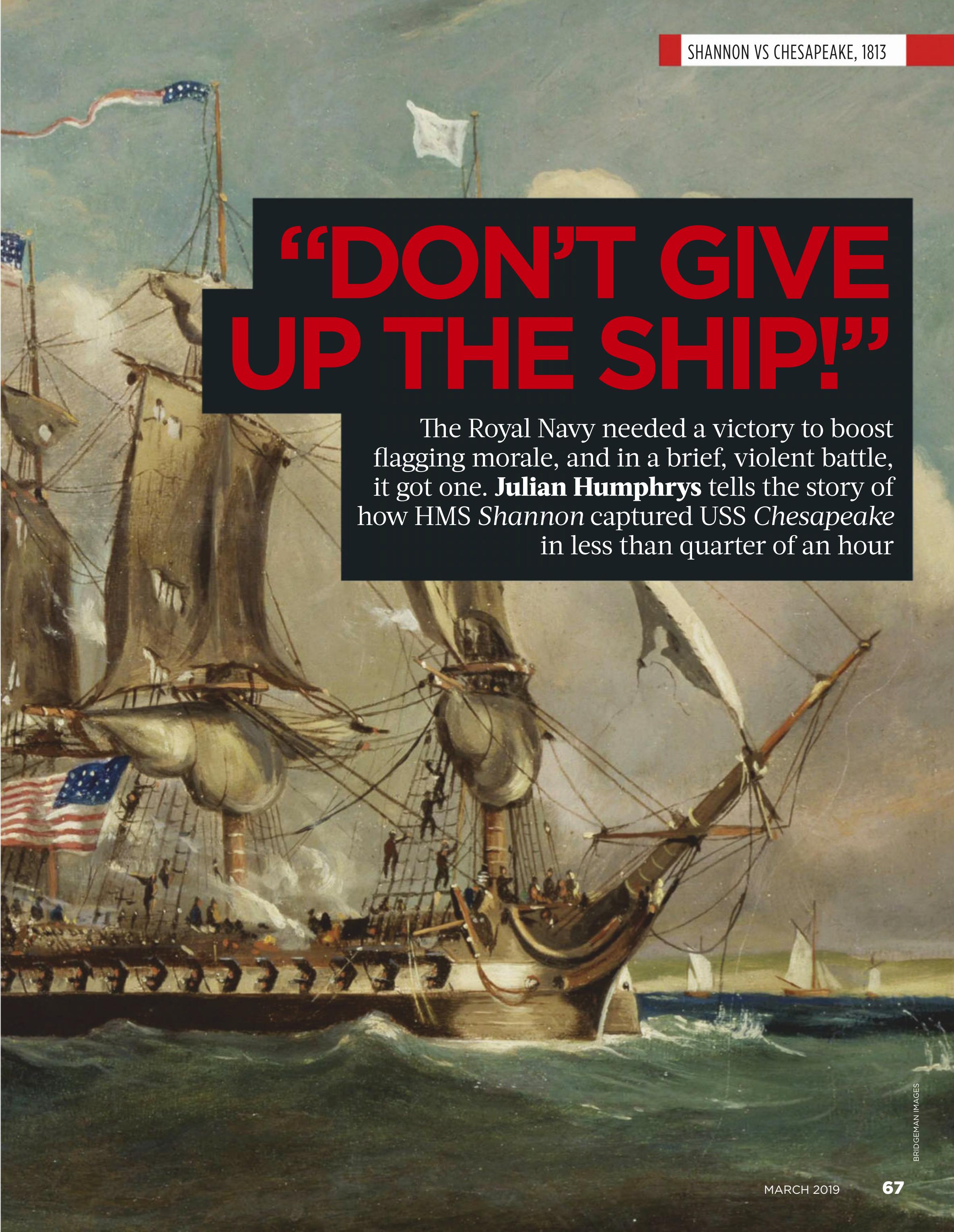
Are there any history making cats we've missed out (not including your pets)?  
Email: [editor@historyrevealed.com](mailto:editor@historyrevealed.com)

The ships were evenly matched in size and weapons, but the battle was far from a close contest



# “DON’T GIVE UP THE SHIP!”

The Royal Navy needed a victory to boost flagging morale, and in a brief, violent battle, it got one. **Julian Humphrys** tells the story of how HMS *Shannon* captured USS *Chesapeake* in less than quarter of an hour



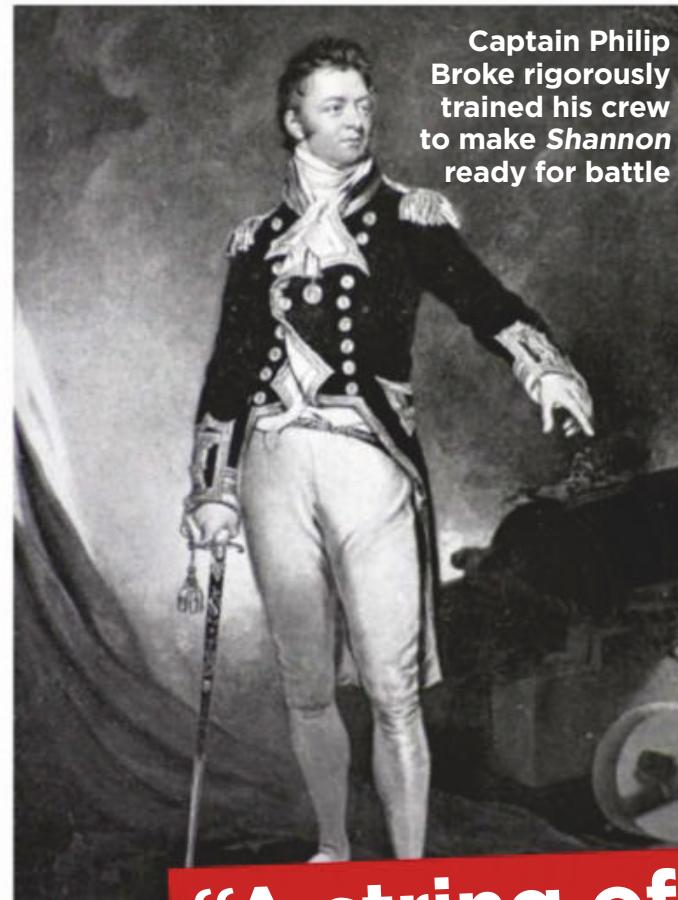
For a British public accustomed to hearing regular reports of naval triumphs over the French, the opening year of the war against the young United States came as a profound shock. When the Americans declared war on Britain in 1812, they had no great ships of the line and instead relied on privateers and a small fleet of heavy frigates to take the war to the British.

Frigates were smaller, faster types of warship normally used for attacking or protecting commerce, raiding or scouting. But America's were the best in the business, stronger than their British counterparts and manned by well-trained crews. What's more, the Royal Navy had grown complacent after years of victory and had let their standards slip, particularly when it came to gunnery.

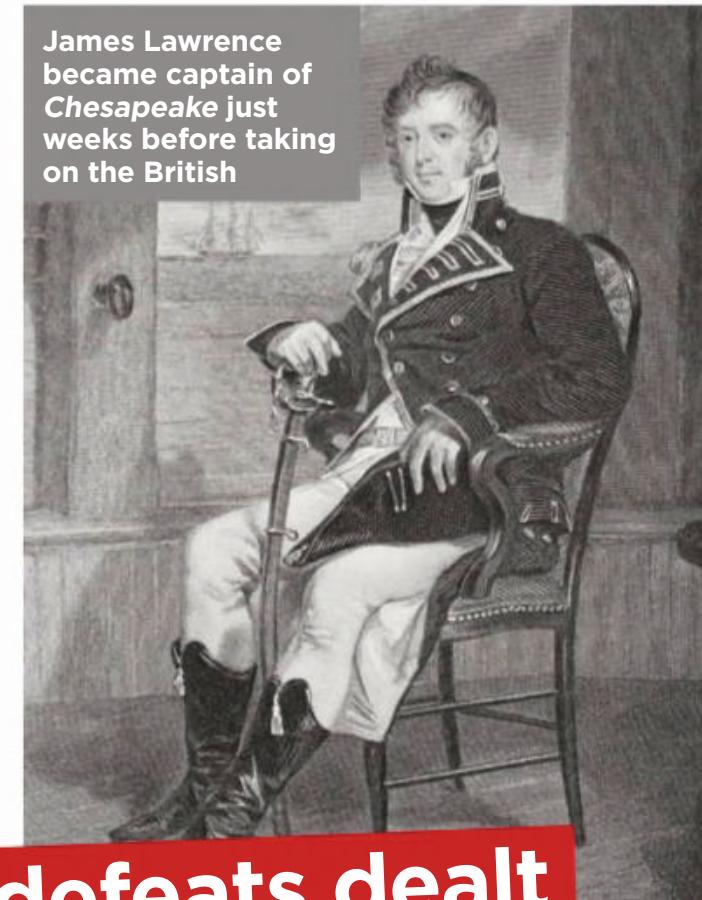
They soon paid the price. America's powerful frigates proved far superior and in a series of single-ship actions, the USS *Constitution* captured the British ships *Guerriere* and *Java*, while the USS *United States* seized the *Macedonian*. In reality, as humiliating as these setbacks were for the British, they had little impact on the war as a whole. By March 1813, the Royal Navy had no fewer than 50 warships and frigates blockading the American eastern seaboard. They trapped most of the enemy in their harbours and gradually stifled American maritime trade. Even so, the string of individual defeats had dealt a severe blow both to the prestige of the Royal Navy and to the morale of the British public. Something had to be done.

### CHALLENGE ISSUED

Enter Philip Bowes Vere Broke. One of the British captains assigned to the North American station, the Suffolk-born Broke had commanded HMS *Shannon* since 1806, and had spent years making alterations to the ship's guns to improve aiming, and turning his crew into some of the



Captain Philip Broke rigorously trained his crew to make *Shannon* ready for battle



James Lawrence became captain of *Chesapeake* just weeks before taking on the British

**“A string of defeats dealt a severe blow to the prestige of the Royal Navy”**

best gunners in the Royal Navy. Believing that practice made perfect, he held regular gunnery competitions for his men by setting up floating targets made of barrels. He circumvented Admiralty restrictions on the expenditure of ammunition in training by paying for the shot himself. His men were no slouches when it came to hand-to-hand combat either, for Broke had introduced a range of musket and cutlass drills to hone their fighting skills. He was determined to restore the honour of the Royal Navy in a single action and he was soon to get the opportunity.

Cruising outside Boston, Broke knew that the American frigate, USS *Chesapeake*, was in the harbour there and made up his mind to fight

her. Although *Chesapeake* was preparing to put to sea, Broke was worried his food and water supplies would run out beforehand, forcing him to return to the British base at Halifax. So on 1 June 1813, he sent a letter to James Lawrence, the new captain of *Chesapeake*, issuing a formal, and extremely polite, challenge to ship-to-ship combat. Lawrence, who became captain in May 1813 after he had achieved a victory over HMS *Peacock*, never received the letter, but it made no difference.

Before it could even be delivered, he had sailed out of Boston that very day with the express intention of taking on *Shannon*. While he had been ordered to avoid contact with the

## WHAT WAS THE WAR OF 1812?

In June 1812, the United States declared war on Britain. The root cause was the Royal Navy's pressing of allegedly British seamen from US ships, and the seizure of merchant vessels attempting to break the British blockade of France during the Napoleonic Wars. Disputes over the border with Canada heightened tensions as some Americans saw Britain's war with France as an opportunity to extend territory northwards. Two attempts to invade Canada were made in 1812 and the following year, the US captured and burned York (Toronto). Another American incursion in 1814 was stopped at Lundy's Lane, near Niagara, but British plans to advance south

were also scuppered by an American naval victory on Lake Champlain.

While the war at sea began badly for the Royal Navy, it soon flexed its maritime muscles. US commerce was strangled and, in August 1814, an amphibious force landed in Maryland. The British marched on Washington and burned the White House. At the end of the year, a peace treaty was signed at Ghent, but before news of it reached North America the British mounted another attack, this time a doomed assault on New Orleans. Although naval issues became less pressing, the treaty settled very little. The border controversy rumbled on until 1846, when the 49th parallel was finally accepted as the boundary line between Canada and the US.



The British burned Washington in 1814

**VENT**

A small hole near the back of the cannon, where the gunpowder charge was ignited.

**18-POUNDER CANNON**

Named after the weight of shot, the cannon could smash through solid oak. Both the British and American ships carried this calibre gun.

**WHEELED CARRIAGE**

The gun would be hauled forward to fire and then roll back due to the force of the shot.

This 18-pounder can be seen on the 1824 frigate HMS *Unicorn* in Dundee

**ROPE RESTRAINTS**

The ropes limited the violent recoil, which would have endangered the gun's crew.

**RAMMER**

The charge, shot and wadding would be rammed down the barrel. Some required the crewman to lean out of the gunport, exposing him to enemy fire.

**ROUND SHOT**

Solid iron balls of a variety of weight. Some 44 British round shot were recovered from the *Chesapeake*.

British, slip through their blockade and attack shipping in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, he saw no reason why he shouldn't first claim another prize for the US. The *Shannon* had been at sea for weeks, but his ship, although older, had been refitted. Not to mention that previous successes had made him confident of victory, a view shared by the inhabitants of Boston. A space at the docks for *Shannon* was already waiting, and Americans lined the rooftops or took to their boats to cheer their frigate out of the harbour.

**CLEARED FOR ACTION**

In fact, *Chesapeake* had the reputation of being an unlucky ship. In June 1807, she had set off from Norfolk, Virginia, for the Mediterranean. Shortly into the voyage, she ran into a British naval squadron, which demanded some Royal Navy deserters on board be handed over. When her commander, James Barron, refused, HMS *Leopard* unleashed three broadsides, killing three and wounding another 18, one of whom later died. Barron himself was among the wounded. Completely unprepared, *Chesapeake* only managed a single token shot before hauling down her colours, handing over the deserters and skulking back to port.

The US authorities were furious, both with the British – the incident brought the two countries to the verge of war – and Barron. He was court-martialled and suspended from the US Navy. Yet in the eyes of Lawrence he was sure that the ship's luck was about to change.

*Shannon* and *Chesapeake* were fairly evenly matched. They were about the same size and both had around 50 guns of a variety of calibres. Much then would depend on the skill and courage of their crews. *Chesapeake* had 379 men on board, to *Shannon*'s 330, but although most of the Americans were experienced mariners, many were new to the ship.

As the battle grew closer that afternoon, their crews 'cleared for action', removing anything that might get in the way, dousing flammable materials with water and scattering sand to prevent the men from slipping on the blood that grim experience told them would soon be covering the decks. Meanwhile, down below, the ships' surgeons prepared temporary hospitals and laid out the tools of their trade.

When the ships were near each other, one of Broke's men noted that *Chesapeake* was flying three ensigns and a large flag with the motto 'Free Trade and Sailors' Rights', whereas *Shannon* had just one faded flag. He asked his captain, "Mayn't we have three ensigns, sir, like she has?" It's tempting to think that had Nelson been there, he would have come up with something suitably flamboyant. Broke was a completely different character, though. "No", he said, "we have always been an unassuming ship."

Broke was more concerned that Lawrence would manoeuvre *Chesapeake* behind *Shannon*, sail past his stern and rake him. This was a situation every captain wanted to avoid. The enemy could fire a broadside down the length of his ship, while his gunners would have nothing to fire at. Broke needn't have worried. Lawrence wanted a trial of strength and, disdaining manoeuvre, simply came alongside *Shannon*.

At around 6pm, the well-trained British gunners opened fire, unleashing a devastating and perfectly timed rolling broadside at a range of just 35 metres. A hail of iron smashed into *Chesapeake*, disabling guns and tearing off splinters of wood that caused terrible injuries. The Americans fired back and although her broadside caused casualties and damaged rigging, it was nowhere near as effective an opening salvo. Realising his ship's speed would take him past *Shannon*, Lawrence ordered a pilot's luff (a small turn into the wind) to slow down. Broke ordered a second broadside and, again, the effect was destructive.

20

The number of nautical miles east of Boston Light that the two ships met, between Capes Ann and Cod.



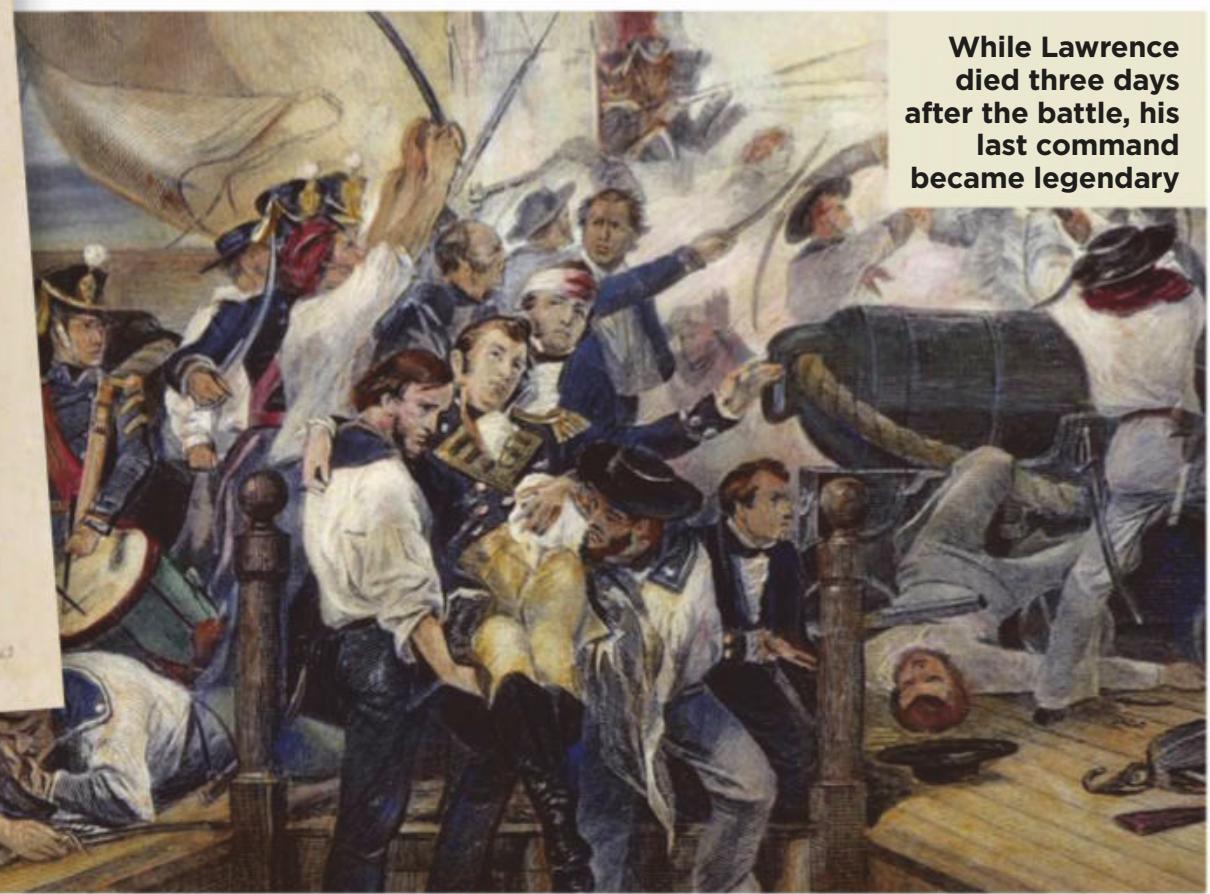
**“The Americans  
were in no position  
to offer much resistance  
to the boarders”**

Once the British  
had boarded,  
led by Captain  
Broke, the battle  
was all but over



A time for British celebration: the captured Chesapeake is brought to Halifax

De Captain Sir Philip Broke Vice-Admiral H.C.B.  
Commander-in-Chief of the British Fleet leading her into the American Frigate CHESAPEAKE into HALIFAX HARBOUR on the 1st June 1813  
Illustrated by the author and most grateful thanks to R.H. King



While Lawrence died three days after the battle, his last command became legendary

28

Both Shannon and Chesapeake had the same number of 18-pounder long guns on board.

Chesapeake's boatswain, fourth lieutenant and sailing master were all killed, and the men around the ship's wheel cut down. The wheel itself was shot away, as were key parts of rigging. The gunners fired back – killing a number of men, disabling a gun and even destroying the ship's bell – but *Chesapeake* was already in serious trouble.

Losing all forward momentum and impossible to control due to damage sustained, she drifted backwards until her port stern quarter (the rear left corner) collided with *Shannon*'s starboard side and became hooked on one of the British ship's anchors. Trapped at an angle that allowed few of her guns to hit anything and unable to sail away, *Chesapeake* was now a sitting duck. Her exposed stern was swept by raking fire and further damage was caused when an ammunition chest on her quarterdeck blew up.

### GIVING UP THE SHIP

Seizing the moment, Broke ordered his gunners to cease firing and assembled a boarding party to capture *Chesapeake*. His boatswain, William Stevens, leaned across to lash the ships together, only to fall back with his arm severed by a cutlass blow. But there was no stopping the

British now, and they streamed across with Broke at their head. Meanwhile, Lawrence had been shot and carried below, mortally wounded. His final exhortation, "Don't give up the ship!" would become a motto for the US Navy, but his words couldn't be heeded. The battered Americans were left in no position to offer much resistance to the British boarders. Still, three sailors, possibly Royal Navy deserters who knew they faced execution if taken alive, made a desperate attempt to kill Broke. He parried a pike thrust and slew one of his assailants before another hit him with a musket and a third sliced open his skull with a cutlass before they were killed.

In a final twist, when George Watt, *Shannon*'s first lieutenant, attempted to run up the British colours on *Chesapeake*, he hoisted them below the stars and stripes in the confusion. Thinking the Americans had regained the ship, some of *Shannon*'s gunners opened fire again. By the time the mistake was rectified, Watt lay dead and half a dozen sailors had been killed or wounded. Not that it changed anything. *Chesapeake*'s upper decks were cleared and

when the British shot down the companionway at the crewmen sheltering on the lower deck, resistance ceased altogether. It was 6.15pm. The battle lasted under 15 minutes.

With Broke badly injured and Watt dead, it fell to Lieutenant Provo Wallis to sail *Shannon* and her prize back to a jubilant Halifax. When the news reached Britain, the nation went wild with joy. The strategic impact of the victory was, like the earlier American triumphs, negligible, but honour had been restored. Yet the price had been high, with 23 *Shannon* crewmen dead and 56 wounded. American losses were even greater: 48 killed and 99 wounded, some mortally. Lawrence died and was buried with full military honours. Broke survived, although he never fully recovered or commanded another ship. He died, a rear admiral, in 1841. ◎

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

This was a significant victory for British morale. What are the other most important morale-boosting wins in history?

Email: [editor@historyrevealed.com](mailto:editor@historyrevealed.com)

## THE END OF CHESAPEAKE

The Royal Navy repaired the captured ship and briefly took her into service, but in July 1819, *Chesapeake* was broken up in Portsmouth and her timbers sold off for building material. Many were used for the interior of a new watermill at Wickham, Hampshire, where they can still be seen today. Some have carpenter's marks while others bear the scars of battle. *Chesapeake* Mill, as it's known, finally stopped operating in the 1970s and now houses an antiques emporium and vegan café. The timbers that once reverberated to the sound of gunfire now echo to the chink of china and slurping of soy lattes.



The ship's timbers have survived in excellent condition in the Chesapeake Mill



# Kings and Queens Weekend

Join us  
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Oxford

**St Anne's College, Oxford**

**2-3 March 2019**

Discover the fascinating history of some of Britain's most intriguing monarchs over two days of talks by expert historians. There are six lectures on the Saturday and five on the Sunday. Both days also include book signings, a buffet lunch and refreshments. Among the confirmed speakers are **Tom Holland** (Æthelstan), **Robert Hutchinson** (Henry VIII) and **Catherine Hanley** (Empress Matilda).

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**TERMS AND CONDITIONS** We reserve the right to replace any speaker with an alternative of equal stature in the unlikely event that they are unable to attend. Please let us know when booking of any special access requirements. Tickets are non-refundable and places are limited. There will be a transaction fee of £2.50 for postal tickets. There will be no transaction fee for e-tickets.



# Q&A

## YOU ASK, WE ANSWER



### MORTAL COMBAT

There were dozens of different gladiators, but spare a thought for the ones that had to fight blindfolded

## WHAT TYPES OF GLADIATOR WERE THERE?



When Romans went to the gladiatorial games, they wouldn't just have seen the same old fight to the death over and over. They'd have seen a well-orchestrated sequence of dozens of different warriors – of course, still doing the fight to the death over and over.

Each type of gladiator had his set weapons, armour and look, and would be matched off against a different fighter. So a man with little armour was vulnerable yet swift, while those in full breastplate tired quickly.

Among the first gladiators were prisoners of war – experienced warriors who kept their names, such as Thracians (think Spartacus), Samnites and Gallus. But most were given a name for the arena. They could be a *retiarius*, fighting with a trident and net, usually against a *secutor*, armed with a sword, shield and smooth helmet.

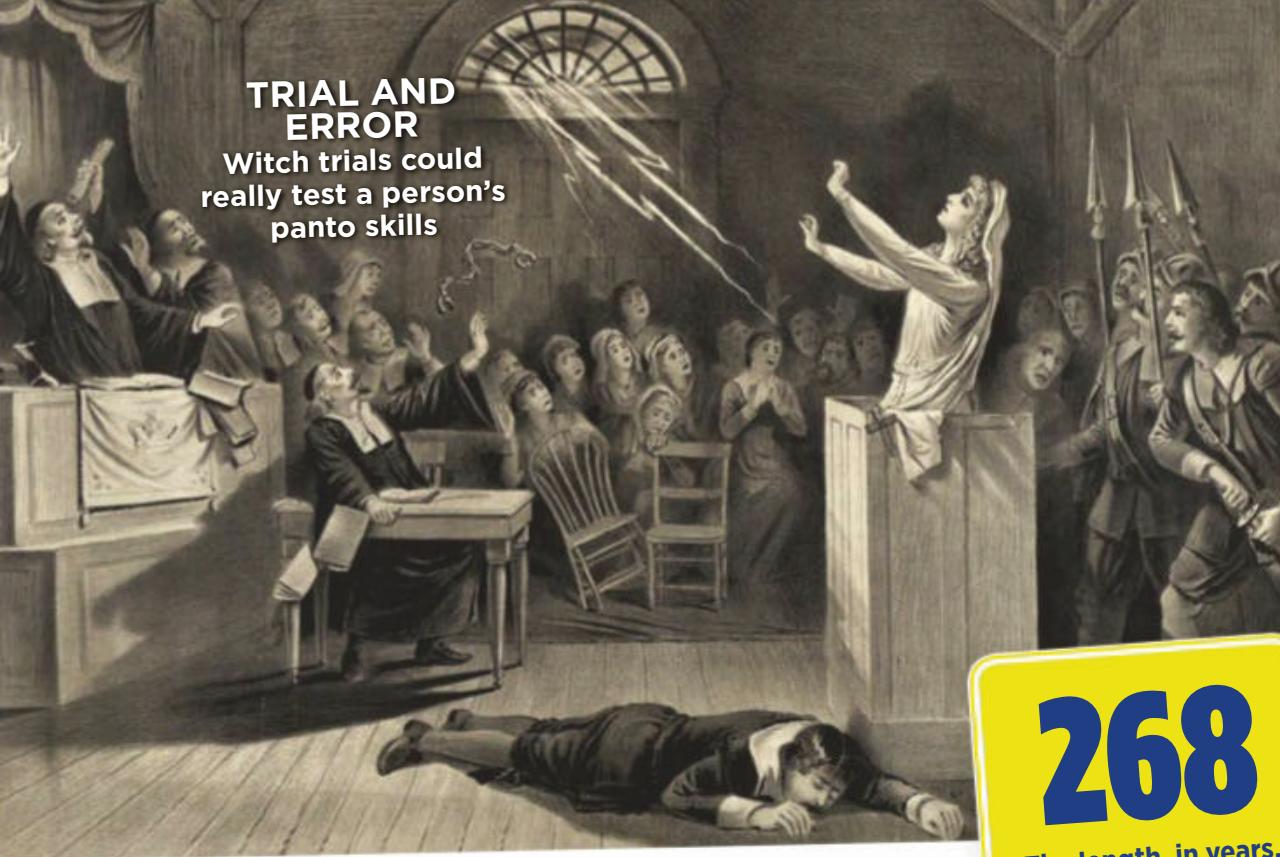
A *hoplomachus* had a lance and dagger, while a *bestiarius* would face wild beasts. An *eques* rode a horse, but if on a chariot they were *essedarius*. Perhaps the strangest type was the *andabatus*, who fought in helmets with no eye holes.



### DID YOU KNOW?

#### TO THE COLO-SEA-UM

As well as being the mightiest amphitheatre where gladiators fought, the Colosseum could be partially flooded for a special event called 'naumachia' – mock naval battles. They had to be done with specially built shallow-bottom boats.



## TRIAL AND ERROR

Witch trials could really test a person's panto skills

# Who was the first **witch** at Salem?



Within a matter of months in 1692, hysteria took hold with a vice-like grip on the village of Salem, Massachusetts, so that hundreds were accused of witchcraft, 20 were executed and its name became stained for ever with connotations of cruelty and religious fanaticism.

And it all began with a few young girls. Early in the year, nine-year-old Elizabeth Parris and her cousin Abigail Williams, 11, suffered from fits, which included screaming, writhing and barking like dogs. They complained of pinching and pricking sensations on their skin, and were soon joined by other girls.

They named the Parris's slave, Tituba, as the cause of their anguish. She was arrested, followed by two equally helpless women: a beggar named Sarah Good and the elderly Sarah Osborne. To save her skin, Tituba confessed to consorting with the devil and named names. So the madness began.



## DARK HORSE

Revere didn't yell 'The British are coming!' – those living in the colonies called themselves British

# 268

The length, in years, of China's Qing Dynasty, which ruled from 1644. In 1912, its 12th emperor, Puyi, was forced to abdicate in the revolution that established the Republic of China.

# WERE BARRAGE BALLOONS EFFECTIVE?



Barrage balloons are almost as old as combat aircraft, and were first used by several countries during World War I. The idea was simple enough. Masses of huge balloons were raised over cities to create a treacherous web of cables in the sky. They offered a nasty obstacle for enemy aircraft on bombing raids, especially if the nets had explosives attached.

The thousands sent up in Britain during World War II, a good proportion of them over London, had success hampering German dive-bombers at around 1,500 metres. The planes were forced higher, to the detriment of their accuracy, and putting them in the target zone of other anti-aircraft weapons.

The balloons had less success against high-flying craft, and could cause damage if they became untethered. In 1942, loose balloons in the Great Lakes region of the US short-circuited power lines, disrupting mining for the war effort.



**RISING UP**  
The London skyline looked very different during WWII

# How long was Paul Revere's ride?



Paul Revere's 'midnight ride' is an enduring image of the beginning of the American Revolutionary War. The story goes that, on the night of 18 April 1775, the silversmith and Patriot hightailed it from Boston to Lexington, warning the militias in the Massachusetts countryside that British forces were on the march.

That much is true, but far from being a lone rider in the darkness, he was part of a prepared network of dozens sent out to raise the alarm.

Revere didn't even go the furthest. After reaching Lexington – a distance of 11-12 miles – he met up with fellow riders William Dawes and Samuel Prescott and set off for Concord, another six miles away. On the way, they were stopped by a British patrol and Revere was temporarily detained. It was Prescott who managed to escape and complete the ride.

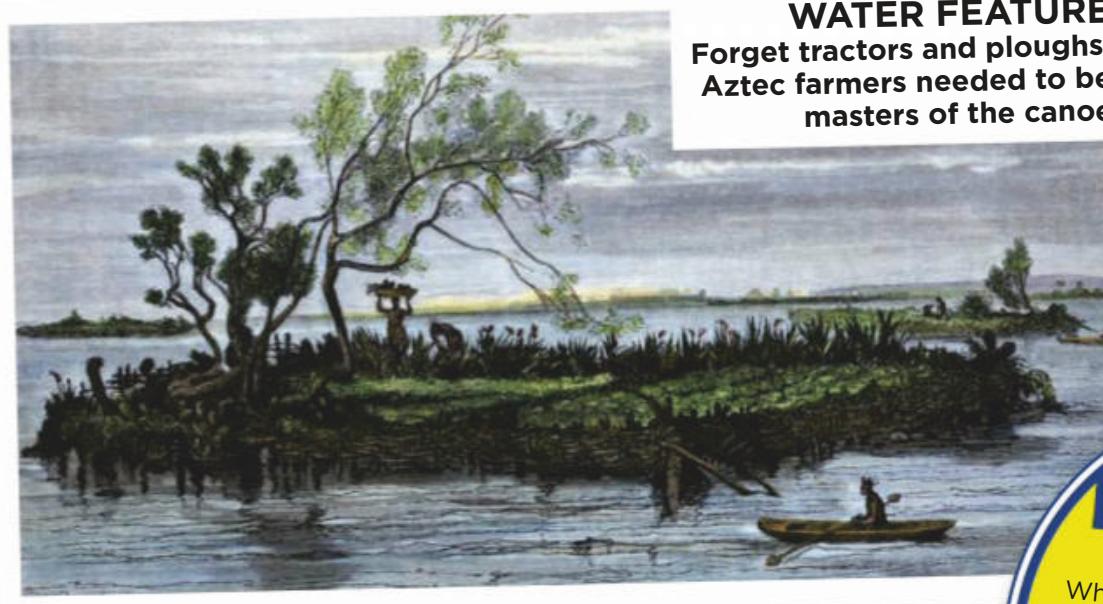
# How did the Aztecs build their **floating gardens**?

**Target** The enterprise of the Aztecs was staggering. They built their mighty capital, Tenochtitlán, on an island in the middle of a lake. And when it got too small for the flourishing population in the 14th century, they simply built more land.

Stakes were hammered into the shallow bed and lashed together with reeds to create solid walls. The space could then be packed with rocks and

earth. Voilà: floating farmland. Each could be 90 metres long and had watery avenues in between for the canoe-based farmers. This form of agriculture, called *chinampas*, was bountiful due to the fertile lake mud.

Tenochtitlán grew to five square miles, and the food grown was crucial to feed the 200,000 living there – which didn't include the hordes brought in as human sacrifices.



**WATER FEATURE**  
Forget tractors and ploughs, Aztec farmers needed to be masters of the canoe

## Was advice given to early female drivers?

**Target** If Edwardian society expected a woman's role inside the new transport-transforming invention, the automobile, to be nothing more than passenger, then Dorothy Levitt shifted things up a gear. The record-breaking racing driver – who taught Queen Alexandra and her daughters to drive – encouraged all women to get on the road.

In 1909, Levitt published *The Woman and the Car: a Chatty Little Handbook for All Women Who Motor or Who Want to Motor*, in which she describes the "intense pleasure" of driving a vehicle.

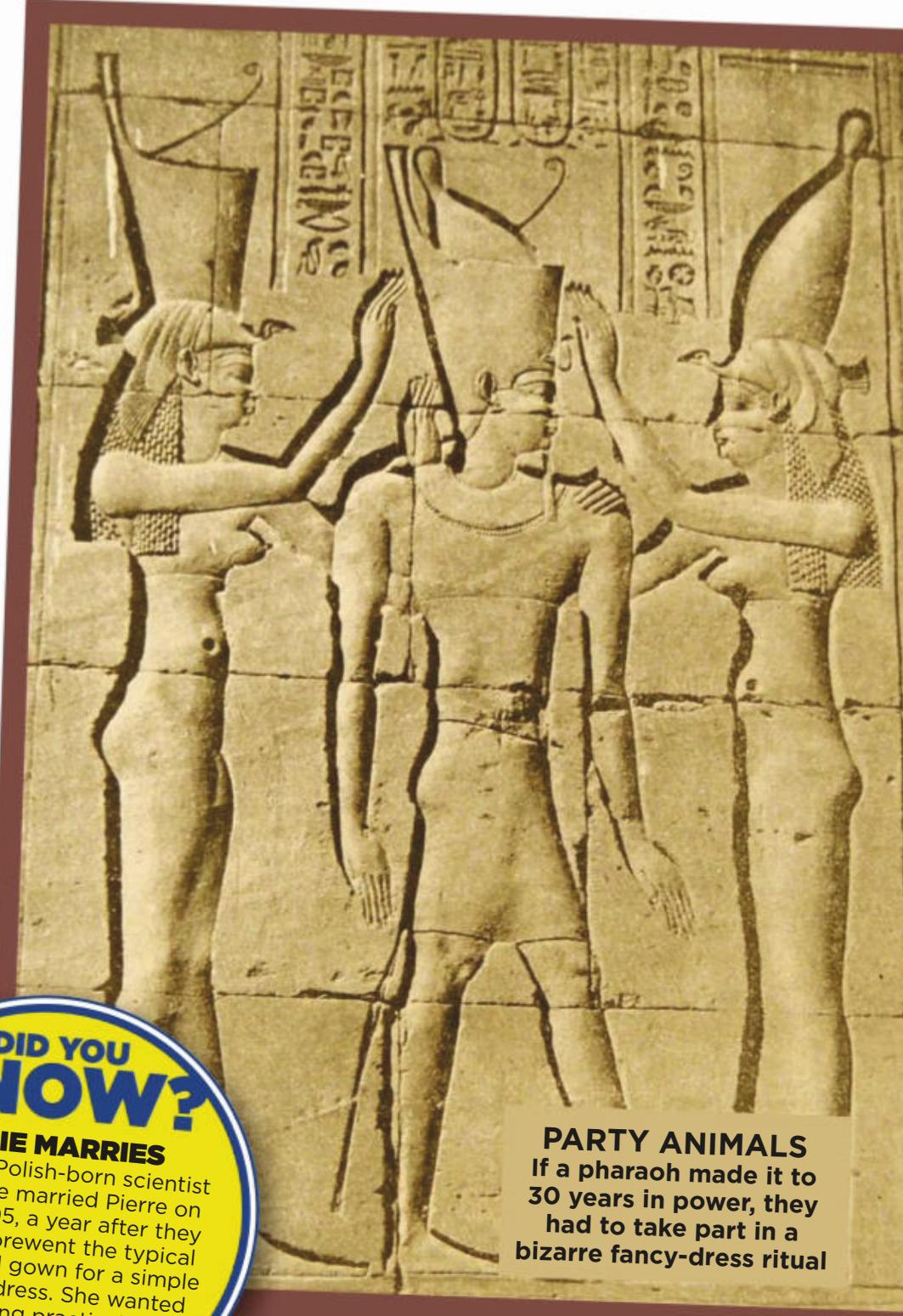
**BRAKING EVEN**  
Dorothy Levitt broke more than glass ceilings behind the wheel of a car



From tips about repairs to advice on how to reach speeds of up to 28mph, the book is packed with advice for independent female drivers.

"Under no circumstances wear lace or 'fluffy' adjuncts," writes Levitt – but she recommends bringing along a pair of clean gloves and veil, powder puff and chocolate, which can be very "soothing". Driving alone had its risks, Levitt knew, so she also advised carrying a small revolver for protection.

Levitt also effectively invented the rear-view mirror, by suggesting drivers use a hand mirror to look behind them.

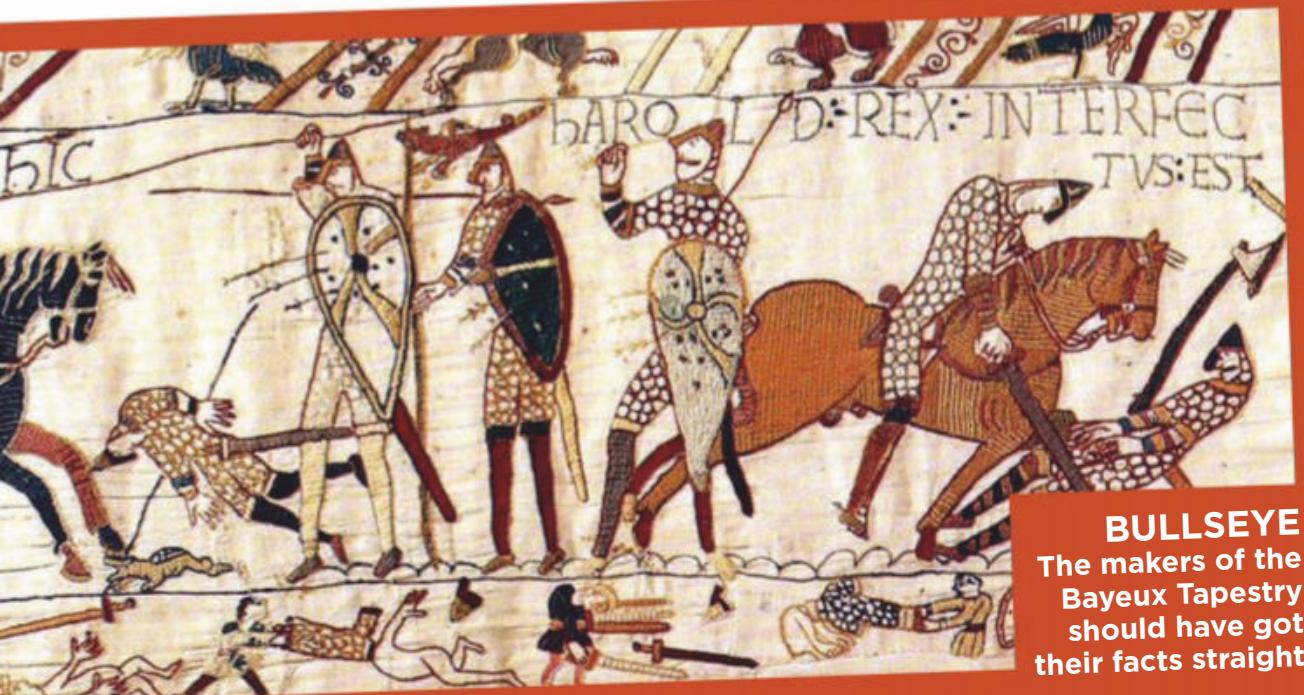


## What was a pharaoh's coronation like?

**Target** As can be expected from rulers believed to be gods and whose tombs were pyramids, a pharaoh's coronation was a mighty spectacle. The rituals and festivities lasted a year.

They must have come in different forms over the millennia, but clues can be gleaned from the Palermo Stone, a list of rulers from Ancient Egypt's First Dynasty to the early Fifth. A new pharaoh would be present at the burial of their predecessor, before receiving the white and red crowns of Upper and Lower Egypt. There were plenty of tributes paid to the gods, along with feasting, celebrations and journeys down the Nile.

Perhaps the strangest custom, however, came during the pharaoh's 30th year on the throne. For the Sed festival, the ruler wore a kilt with an animal tail and had to run laps around their palace. They would then repeat this every three years. Imagine if Elizabeth II, aged 55, had jogged around Buckingham Palace with a tail 10 times.



**BULLSEYE**  
The makers of the Bayeux Tapestry should have got their facts straight

## WHO FIRED THE ARROW AT HAROLD?



Even if we knew for certain that Harold Godwinson, King of England, had died from an arrow to the eye, the chances of discovering the identity of the archer would be infinitesimally small.

Accounts of the Battle of Hastings make no mention of the eye-piercing shot – simply stating that Harold received mortal wounds. The conquering Normans used archers to great effect, but mentions of Harold coping an arrow in the peep hole come from decades, if not centuries, later.

One Norman historian wrote a detailed – and probably embellished – report in *Carmen de Hastingae*

*Proelio* ('Song of the Battle of Hastings'), claiming Harold was cut apart by four men. Our chief eyewitness to this famous act of grisly marksmanship remains the Bayeux Tapestry, where the inscription "Harold the King is dead" appears above a figure pulling an arrow from his face – but also above another warrior being hacked down by cavalry. Either could be Harold.

In fact, it has been revealed the arrow was not added to the tapestry until the 19th century. Originally, the man wielded a spear over his head.

## WHO WROTE THE FIRST THESAURUS?



The earliest known thesaurus may have been written by the Ancient Greek historian Philo of Byblos, but the name most associated with those ever-so-helpful synonyms will always be Roget.

British doctor and polymath Peter Mark Roget began compiling (or gathering, collecting or amassing) his lists of words in 1805. At first it was a hobby, and an antidote for the depression he suffered from his whole life. It wouldn't be until after Roget retired that he gave the project his total concentration, and was able to publish the first modern thesaurus in 1852.

Since then, it has never been out of print, although it had grown somewhat from around 15,000 words to a quarter of a million.



**WORDSEARCH**  
Some people love the thesaurus, but others think it's lazy

## WHAT WAS THE PIG WAR?



In human history, wars have broken out over power, land, religion... oh, and a pig.

After winning independence, the United States negotiated with Britain over its border with Canada until the mid-19th century. The nations had different ideas regarding the Strait of Georgia on the west coast, leaving the ownership of a few small islands fiercely disputed.

With no intention of giving them up, the British Hudson's Bay Company set up a ranch in 1853 on the most strategic,

**HOGS OF WAR**  
A potato-loving piggy got two nations all riled up

San Juan Island, under the control of Charles Griffin. Not to be outdone, several Americans soon settled too, and an uneasy truce began.

Then, on 15 April 1859, one of Griffin's pigs strayed onto a plot belonging to Lyman Cutlar and ate his potatoes. The American shot it.

The two men argued over compensation, but as word got out, things escalated. The anti-British general William S Harney sent a few dozen soldiers, while the governor of British Columbia, James Douglas, dispatched warships. By August, numbers had grown to nearly 500 Americans and more than 2,000 Brits, with both sides determined not to shoot first. So they waited and waited... for 12 years.

It took international arbitration, led by the German kaiser, to end the standoff in 1872. There was not a single casualty – unless, of course, you count the pig.





**ON THE TABLE**  
When he landed at Table Bay, Jan van Riebeeck changed the region forever

## Which Europeans settled in South Africa?

Portuguese explorers in the late 15th century were first to navigate its coastline and sail around the Cape of Good Hope, but it was the Dutch who first settled in South Africa. After a Dutch ship wrecked off Table Bay in the 1640s, the crew survived by foraging off the land. When they returned home, they convinced the Dutch East Indies Company it was an ideal spot for a trading post.

On 6 April 1652, surgeon Jan van Riebeeck landed with three ships and began farming. Bitter conflict with the local Khoikhoi ensued, and then slavery, but the trading post grew so much that it became Cape Town. Today, Van Riebeeck is remembered as a founding father of the Afrikaners.

## HOW OLD IS THE YO-YO?

As the second oldest toy in human history, behind the doll, it is safe to say the first yo-yo looked very different from the coloured plastic toy many of us had as a child.

The earliest surviving depiction comes from 500 BC in Ancient Greece, where they were made of wood, metal or painted terracotta, but the toy originated in China even earlier than that.

There, they were called diabolo, and when they appeared in Europe they were dubbed "bandalore". The name yo-yo comes from the Philippines. It was a Filipino immigrant, Pedro Flores, who opened a manufacturing shop in the US in the 1920s, which is when our love of the yo-yo really went up. Then down, then up again.



**YO BEAUTY**  
Do you think the Ancient Greeks mastered 'rock the baby' or 'walk the dog'?

## Why are the English called John Bull?

The United States has Uncle Sam and the English have John Bull. The stout, plain-spoken, middle-aged farmer figure in breeches, a low topper hat and a Union Flag waistcoat originated in John Arbuthnot's satirical 1712 pamphlet *Law Is a Bottomless Pit*. The Scottish physician intended the figure to be a criticism of the Whig Party. Yet as well as deriding the government, the figure has been used as a symbol of patriotism: the personification of the nation.

The dichotomy of John Bull persisted into the 20th century, when he was both seen mocking the Liberal Party and on World War I recruiting posters. A proud patriot moaning about politicians – what could be more British?



### NOW SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS

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# ON OUR RADAR

A guide to what's happening in the world of history over the coming weeks



Sergeant 'Tiny' Faulkner is helped into his parachute before heading into action from RAF Biggin Hill



## MUSEUM OPENING

### Biggin Hill Memorial Museum

St George's RAF Chapel of Remembrance, Biggin Hill, Kent.  
Find out more at [bhmm.org.uk](http://bhmm.org.uk)



In the impressive collection are Biggin Hill road signs, pilots' personal effects and even German artefacts, such as a clock from a Me 109 fighter



RAF Biggin Hill played a crucial role in the Battle of Britain. It was the commanding base for many of the Spitfire and Hurricane squadrons protecting London, which made it a target for enemy aircraft. A new museum, dedicated to those who worked and lost their lives there, is now open and stands as a lasting memorial. A wealth of personal items are on display, including a Luftwaffe tea set and an escape crowbar from a Spitfire's cockpit. Veterans from the Battle of Britain, along with historian Dan Snow, provide an audio commentary for visitors.

## WHAT'S ON

The big story of the Tudor miniatures ..... p82



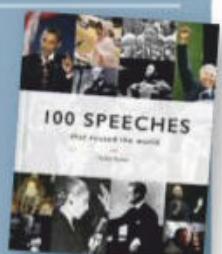
## BRITAIN'S TREASURES

Lacock village ..... p84



## BOOK REVIEWS

Our look at the best new releases....p86



## POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST

Your best photos of historical landmarks...p90



## **SPECIAL SCREENING**

# *The Great Escape with Dan Snow*

Sunday, 24 March at Hammersmith Apollo.  
Find out more and get tickets at [www.rafbf.org/event/great-escape-dan-snow](http://www.rafbf.org/event/great-escape-dan-snow)

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the real escape from Stalag Luft III, Dan Snow will host a gala screening of one of the greatest World War II movies ever made. Veterans from the POW camp will relive their experiences and Snow will investigate the history behind the daring escape attempt. What's more, the iconic motorcycle ridden by Steve McQueen as he makes a break for the border will also make a starring appearance. The event will be shown in cinemas across the country.



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WITH DAN SNOW

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75TH ANNIVERSARY

WITH SPECIAL  
GUESTS  
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Steve McQueen's  
motorcycle will be  
a special guest at  
the screening



*A Party in the Open Air*, Isaac Oliver's highly detailed scene of musicians and hunting, is only 11.3 by 17.4cm

## EXHIBITION

# Elizabethan Treasures

National Portrait Gallery, London, from 21 February to 19 May. [www.npg.org.uk](http://www.npg.org.uk)

Nicholas Hilliard and Isaac Oliver were compared to Michelangelo and Raphael in their day, yet their work was on the small side. They produced portrait miniatures – the best in Europe – of the cream of Tudor and Jacobean society, and gained admiration and fame for their intricate attention to detail. The diminutive images in this major exhibition will show more than the faces of their subjects, but reveal elements of life, society and art in the 16th and 17th centuries – with a whole section dedicated to the Virgin Queen, Elizabeth I.

**Miniatures of Elizabeth I and Sir Walter Raleigh by Nicholas Hilliard; the queen so liked his work that he was appointed the royal limner (miniaturist)**

## NEW MUSEUM

### Museum of Boats, Steam and Stories

Opens Saturday, 23 March, at Windermere Jetty, Lake District. See [windermerejetty.org](http://windermerejetty.org)

A museum celebrating the history of boats in the Lake District is coming to England's largest natural lake. It will tell the story of more than two centuries of boat making – a vital industry in the region. The museum's collection of vessels is 40-strong and includes the Edwardian steam boat Osprey, which visitors can sail on. Some 250 metres of previously inaccessible lakeshore has been opened, and a conservation workshop allows visitors to see the preservation work on boats – such as Beatrix Potter's rowing boat – which would otherwise have been lost.



An artist's impression of the still-under-development jetty

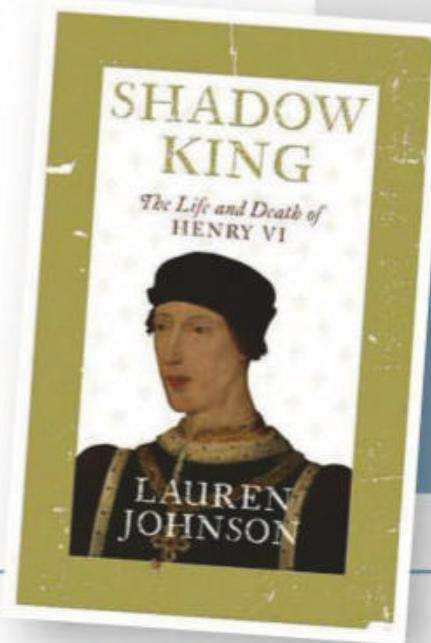
## TALK

### Shadow King: the Life and Death of Henry VI

Thursday, 28 March at 6.30pm, the National Archives, Richmond. Get tickets at [bit.ly/2RoT1Q5](http://bit.ly/2RoT1Q5)

Henry VI – whose inabilities as king ignited the Wars of the Roses and lost England's claim to the French throne – goes under the microscope of Dr Lauren Johnson. Turn to page 54 for Johnson's examination of the mystery of the Princes in the Tower.

Dr Johnson will be signing copies of her new book



## TO BUY

### Egyptian cat bookends

£30, available from the British Museum, [www.britishmuseumshoponline.org/egyptian-cat-bookends.html](http://www.britishmuseumshoponline.org/egyptian-cat-bookends.html)

Books are an important part of any home and need to be protected. These cat bookends – inspired by those worshipped by the Ancient Egyptians – will ensure that your library will not only stay tidy, but safe from ancient malevolent forces.

Go to page 64 for more on the Egyptians' love of cats



## FILM

### The Aftermath

In cinemas 1 March

Postwar tensions run high when Rachael Morgan travels to Hamburg to be with her husband, a British colonel charged with rebuilding the broken city after World War II, only to find she will be sharing their home with a German widower and his daughter. Keira Knightley, Alexander Skarsgård and Jason Clarke star in this enthralling drama, based on a novel by Rhidian Brook.



Keira Knightley's Rachael finds more than she expected in postwar Germany

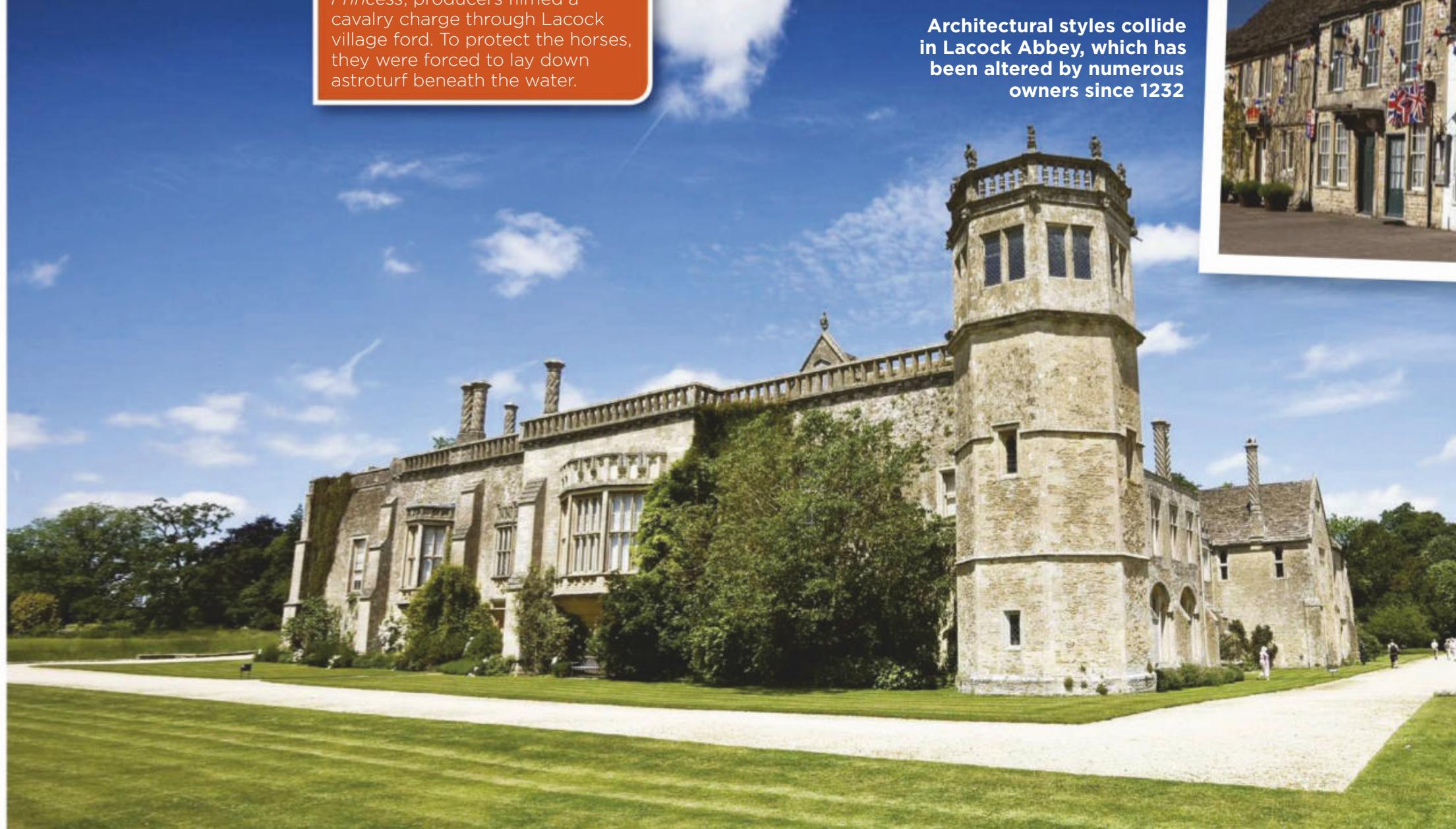
## ► ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

- International Women's Day at Beamish Living Museum. From 8-10 March, get involved with a suffragette rally and explore the role of women throughout the last two centuries. More at [bit.ly/2Tg2SsY](http://bit.ly/2Tg2SsY)
- Making Connections: Stonehenge in its prehistoric world – the story of the period told through precious objects. At Stonehenge until 21 April, [bit.ly/2zRxyIK](http://bit.ly/2zRxyIK)

**FORD FIESTA**

For the 2017 TV series *The White Princess*, producers filmed a cavalry charge through Lacock village ford. To protect the horses, they were forced to lay down astroturf beneath the water.

Architectural styles collide in Lacock Abbey, which has been altered by numerous owners since 1232



## BRITAIN'S TREASURES... LACOCK ABBEY AND VILLAGE Wiltshire

**Step back in time in this immaculately preserved village, whose period charm and imposing abbey have made it a star of the silver screen**

**GETTING THERE:**  
From the M4, exit at Junction 17 and follow the A350 towards Chippenham, then continue on to Lacock. There are regular buses from Chippenham.



**OPENING TIMES AND PRICES:**  
Times vary during the year. The cloisters, grounds and museum open daily from 10.30am-5.30pm, 11am-4pm from 4 November. Adults £11.60, children £5.80. Free for National Trust members.

**FIND OUT MORE:**  
[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lacock-abbey-fox-talbot-museum-and-village](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lacock-abbey-fox-talbot-museum-and-village)

**T**he village of Lacock is rather unusual in that it still perfectly resembles the quaint settlement that stood here centuries ago. With lime-washed stone and timber-fronted buildings, the village feels like a step back in time for visitors.

Lacock is believed to have begun life as a Saxon settlement, with its name coming from Lacuc, meaning 'little stream'. It was mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1086 as having two mills, a vineyard and a population of fewer than 200 people.

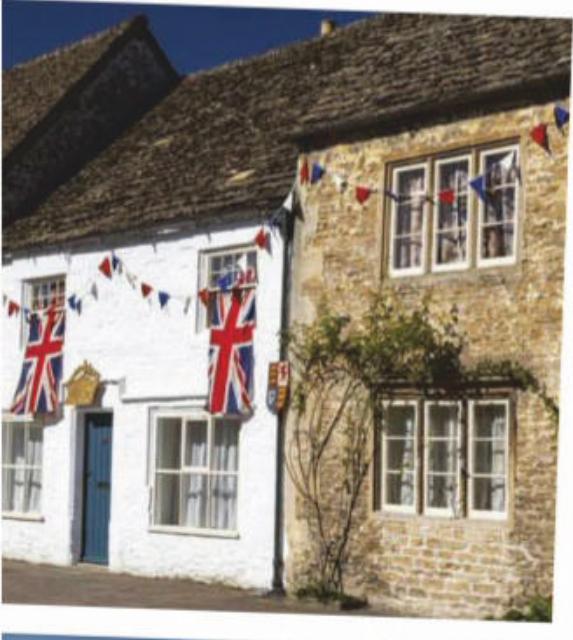
The abbey, founded in 1232 by Ela, Countess of Salisbury –

one of the 13th century's most powerful women – has always been at the heart of village life. After the death of her husband, William Longespée (an illegitimate son of Henry II), Ela created the Augustinian nunnery. She would later join the order herself, becoming its first abbess in 1240. Thanks to her efforts, the abbey thrived, which in turn helped to boost the economy of the village. A weekly market was granted and a flourishing wool industry was soon developing.

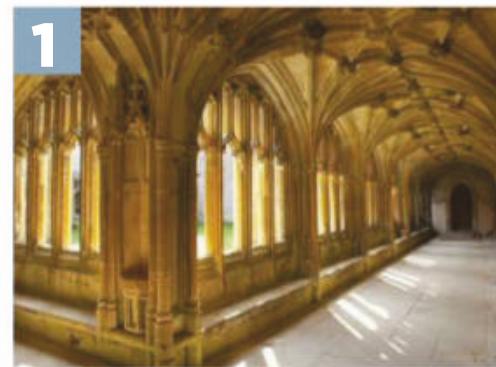
In 1539, after 300 years as a religious institution, Lacock Abbey was shut down as part

of Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries. It was bought by the courtier and Wiltshire landowner Sir William Sharington the following year for £783. He transformed it into a private residence, adding a three-storey tower, stable courtyard and Renaissance chimneys.

Sharington was the under-treasurer at the Bristol Castle mint, and he became involved with Thomas Seymour's plot to launch an uprising and capture the young King Edward VI. Sharington funded Seymour by defrauding the mint and producing lighter coins, along with minting secret



## WHAT TO LOOK FOR...



### ABBEY

Once home to an order of Augustinian nuns, the abbey now has celebrity status, with its cloisters easily recognisable as those of Hogwarts in *Harry Potter*.



### THE GEORGE INN

A traditional English country pub established c1361, the George Inn still has a dog wheel in its fire place, which would have been used to cook meat.



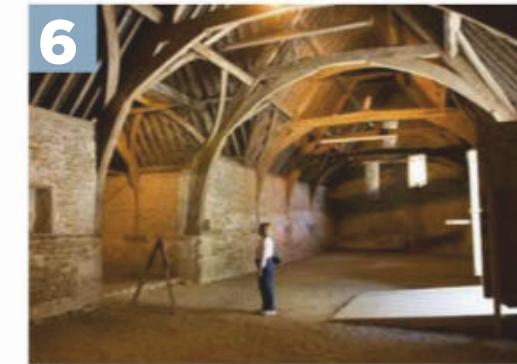
### FOX TALBOT MUSEUM

As well as celebrating Lacock's own photographic pioneer, the museum holds regular exhibitions and houses an extensive collection of historical images.



### ST CYRIAC'S CHURCH

This 14th-century church still retains some medieval windows, and originally housed the Lacock Cup – one of the few surviving medieval silver feasting chalices.



### TITHE BARN

The tithes or rents of the village residents would have been collected in this barn, built in the 14th century. They were often paid in produce such as corn or wool.

# “The first photo negative was of a Lacock window”

batches. The plot was uncovered and, putting all the blame on Seymour, Sharrington lost his land and seat in parliament, while Seymour lost his head. When Sharrington later publicly confessed, he was pardoned and able to regain his lands.

The abbey was graced with a royal visit in 1574. Elizabeth I stayed at Lacock and knighted Henry Sharrington, brother of William, who had inherited the estate. The abbey then passed to Henry's daughter, Olive, who was married to John Talbot. The Talbot family would own Lacock for the next 400 years.

In the mid-18th century, John Ivory-Talbot radically altered the abbey, incorporating Gothic revival elements. He added the Great Hall,

dining rooms and a Gothic arch, and removed the cloister windows to create a ruined atmosphere.

### ON CAMERA

One of Lacock's most famous residents was William Henry Fox Talbot – often seen as a father of modern photography. An inventor, polymath and MP for Chippenham, he created the first photographic negative in 1835, of a latticed window at Lacock Abbey. A photography museum devoted to Talbot's pioneering work is now housed in a barn in the abbey grounds.

The village of Lacock still retains many of its medieval buildings including a 14th-century church, tithe barn and inn. There is also a village lock-up – a small,

one-roomed structure with a slit window, or none at all – which was a common sight in rural England as they would be used to deal with unruly or drunk villagers. Almost the entire village is owned by the National Trust, after being granted it by the Talbot family in 1944. Many of the homes are still in use.

The preserved streets and quaint buildings have made Lacock an ideal filming location, including for *Cranford*, *Wolf Hall* and the 1995 BBC adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*. The abbey is also a star of the silver screen, with the cloisters doubling for the corridors and classrooms of Hogwarts in the *Harry Potter* series, as well as appearing in *The Other Boleyn Girl*.

### WHY NOT VISIT...

Nearby Bath and Salisbury Plain host some special sights

#### THE ROMAN BATHS

Nestled in the heart of the city of Bath are the remains of a Roman bathing complex dating back to the first century, built over a natural thermal spring. [www.romanbaths.co.uk](http://www.romanbaths.co.uk)

#### BOWOOD HOUSE

This Georgian country house, with gardens designed by Capability Brown, has a children's adventure playground and acres of parkland to explore. [www.bowood.org](http://www.bowood.org)

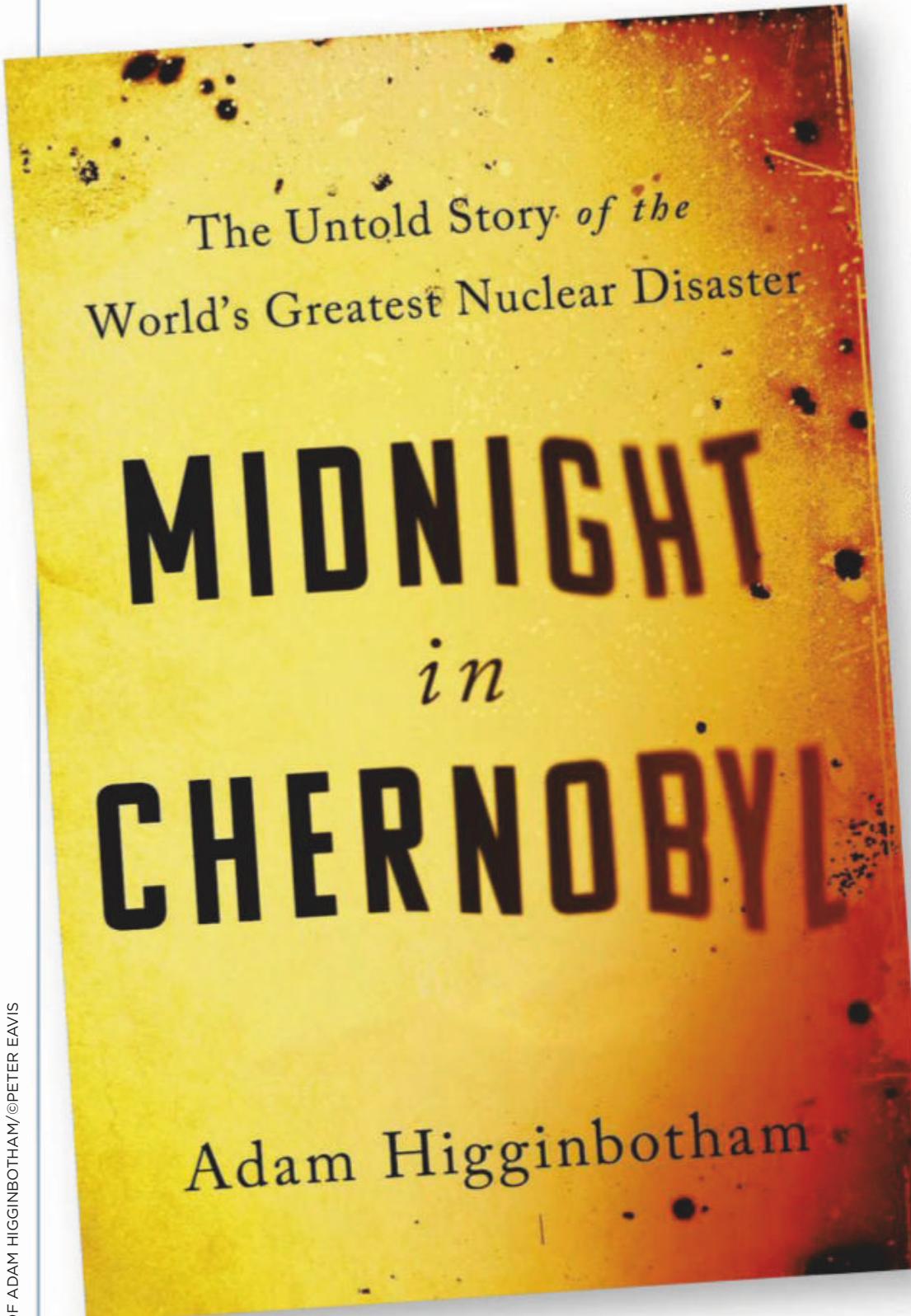
#### STONEHENGE

In the centre of Salisbury Plain lies one of the most fascinating and recognisable remnants of Britain's prehistoric past. [www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/stonehenge/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/stonehenge/)

# BOOKS

This month's best historical reads

BOOK  
OF THE  
MONTH



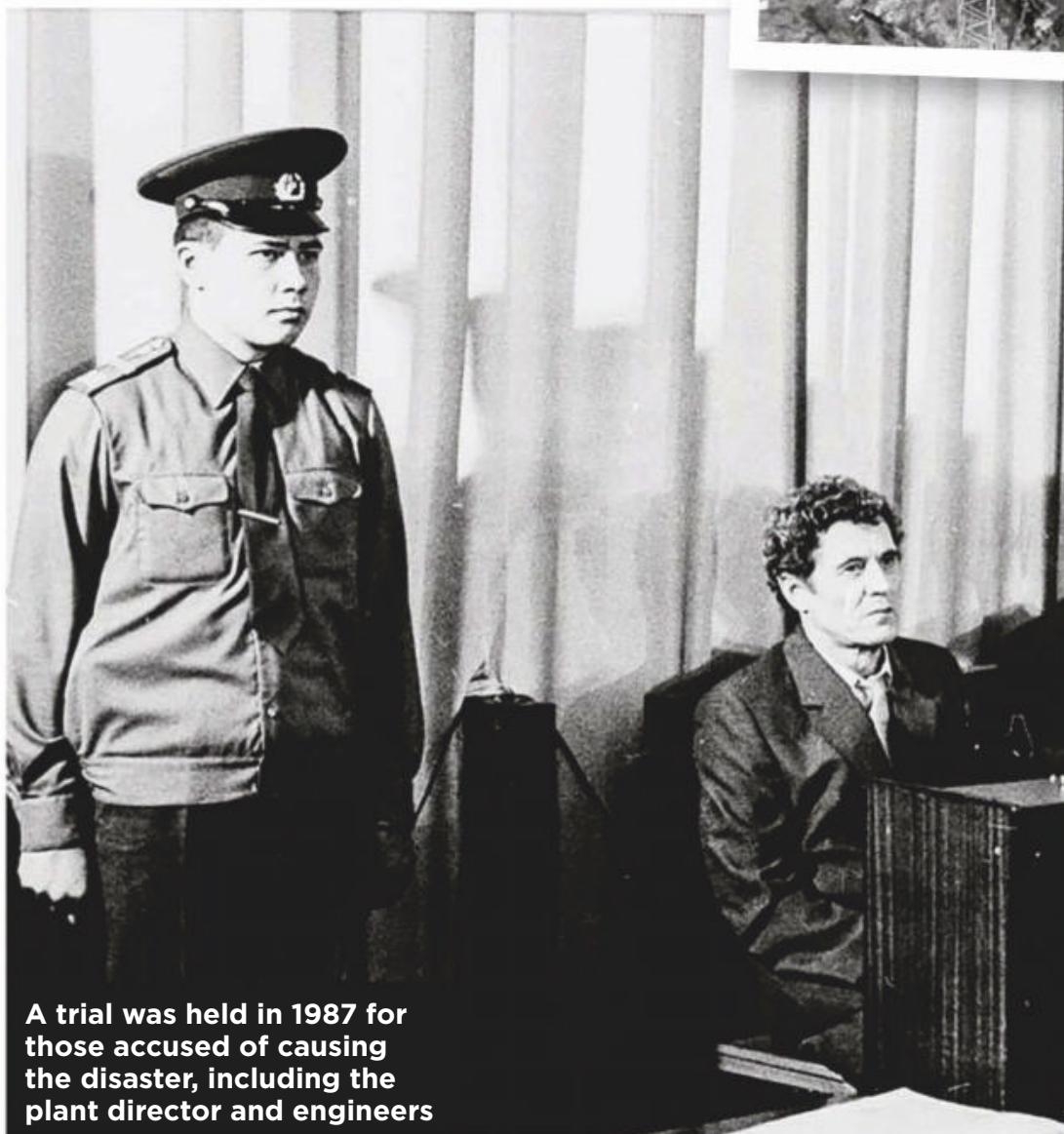
**“The Soviet regime created a shroud of secrecy around the incident... Higginbotham attempts to separate fact from propaganda”**

## Midnight in Chernobyl: The Story of the World's Greatest Nuclear Disaster

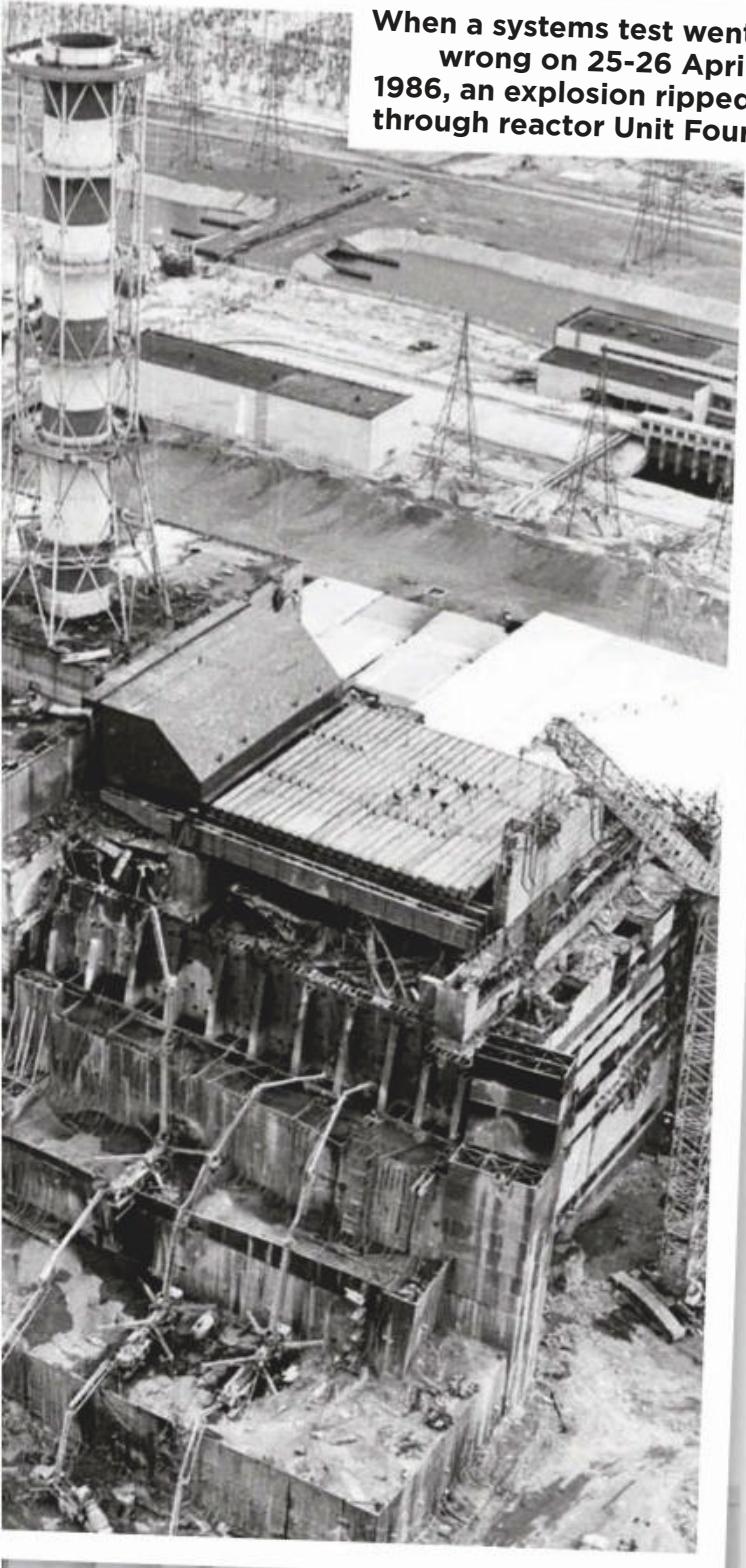
By Adam Higginbotham

Bantam Press, £20, hardback, 560 pages

More than 30 years on, the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster continues to fascinate and appal in equal measure. Some of this fascination is due to the sheer magnitude of what happened: hundreds of people killed, and a cloud of radioactive material unleashed across parts of the Soviet Union and Europe. Yet the fascination is also due to the shroud of secrecy the regime created around the incident. In this new book, Adam Higginbotham attempts to separate fact from propaganda, drawing on more than a decade of first-hand interviews to create a new telling of an event whose ramifications are still felt today.



A trial was held in 1987 for those accused of causing the disaster, including the plant director and engineers



When a systems test went wrong on 25-26 April 1986, an explosion ripped through reactor Unit Four

## MEET THE AUTHOR

**Adam Higginbotham** tells us why many of the events surrounding the Chernobyl disaster are misunderstood, and why it's so important for that to be rectified

### **What first led you to write about the Chernobyl nuclear disaster?**

I began interviewing eyewitnesses to the disaster for a magazine story shortly before the 20th anniversary of the accident in 2006, and I immediately recognised that there was a great deal about it that people in the west either misunderstood or didn't know. Chernobyl is one of the epic stories of the 20th century, a parable of technological hubris, heroism and cowardice, but it had been relatively unexplored. The more I discovered, the more compelling it became.

### **Who did you interview, and what stories particularly stood out?**

I interviewed around 80 individuals. They represented a cross-section of Soviet society and the nuclear state, from the director of the Chernobyl plant to men in the reactor building at the moment of the explosion, as well as government ministers and ordinary citizens of Pripyat. Each had an amazing and compelling story – too many for a single book.

But among the most powerful were those of the nuclear engineer Alexander Yuvchenko and his wife Natalia, who were just 24 and 25 at the time of the accident. They were vivacious and optimistic, full of hope for the future, but their lives changed forever. Other striking stories included those of Sergei Volodin, the pilot of the first helicopter on the scene, and Maria Protsenko, chief architect of Pripyat, who had to oversee the evacuation, and permanent abandonment, of the town she had helped build.

### **Why is this incident still so shrouded in secrecy and propaganda, and was it hard to separate truth from myth?**

The Soviet regime had always attempted to conceal its technical blunders and

catastrophes, both from its own citizens and the outside world. Chernobyl was no exception. From the beginning, the government blanketed the disaster in deliberate misinformation and propaganda channelled through the state-run press. No western reporters were allowed to visit the scene until weeks after the explosion, and in Moscow the KGB initially did their best to stop foreign correspondents getting information to their editors in London and New York. This was followed by years of conflicting and contradictory accounts of what happened. My job was to get as close to the truth as possible by talking to people who were there and cross-referencing their memories with one another and primary sources, including declassified documents and scientific analysis.



**“They were vivacious and optimistic, full of hope... their lives changed forever”**

### **What new impression of the disaster do you think your book will leave readers with?**

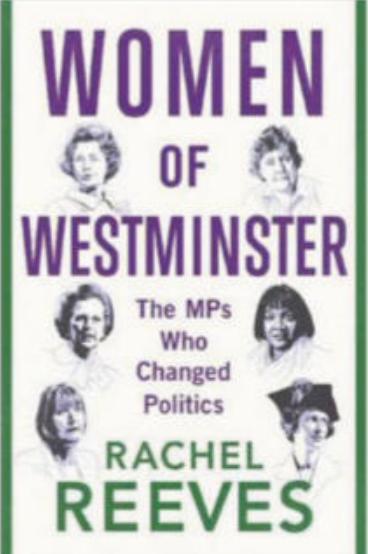
I hope readers will finish the book understanding the human story of what happened, having seen the events through the eyes of those who lived through it. They can also realise that, although we were separated from them by the Iron Curtain

and now by decades of history, the citizens of the Soviet Union had the same weaknesses, aspirations and expectations as the rest of us.

### **Why do you think this story is particularly important now, in 2019?**

Some of the lessons of Chernobyl are perennial. Like the *Titanic*, it's a story that exposes the best and worst in humanity, and the terrible cost of humankind's technological overreach. But in 2019, as we confront the effects of global warming and the destruction of the planet caused by fossil fuels, it should prompt us to seriously consider the risks – and the great potential benefits – of nuclear power.



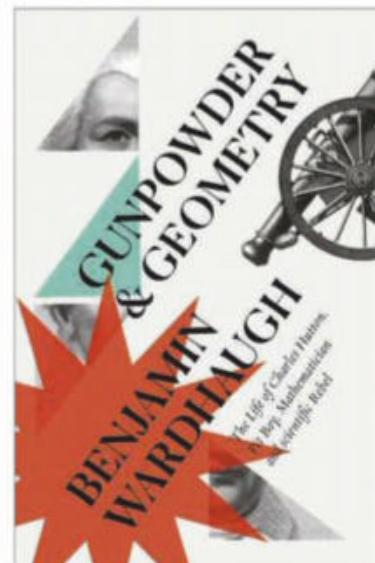


## Women of Westminster: The MPs who Changed Politics

By Rachel Reeves

IB Tauris, £18.99, hardback, 272 pages

From Nancy Astor becoming the first to take her seat as MP in 1919, the issues affecting women in parliament – their struggles to be taken seriously, the challenges of balancing work with motherhood – are still felt. Rachel Reeves looks at the key figures, such as Margaret Thatcher and Harriet Harman, but puts the focus on those often overlooked.

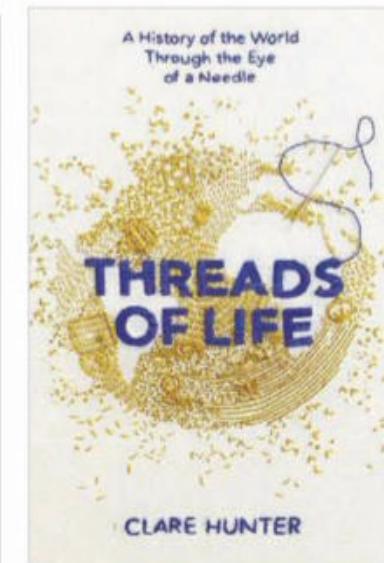


## Gunpowder and Geometry

By Benjamin Wardhaugh

William Collins, £20, hardback, 320 pages

Mathematics may not seem the most dynamic of historical subjects – but as this new biography explores, during the 18th and 19th centuries it could pave the way for huge personal success. Following the life of Charles Hutton from teenage mine-worker to, less than 20 years later, distinguished professor, it charts the potent mixture of skill, ambition and luck that brought about such a remarkable change in circumstance.



## Threads of Life

By Clare Hunter

Sceptre, £20, hardback, 320 pages

While there have been histories told through fabric and material before, this is something different. Clare Hunter takes a look at how sewing itself has repeatedly been used as an expression of identity, memory and defiance. From the secret Tudor stitch work of Mary, Queen of Scots to devastating depictions of World War I, this is a fascinating exploration of how a seemingly humble craft has been so often used over the centuries to form historical documents as powerful as any other.



## 100 SPEECHES

that roused the world

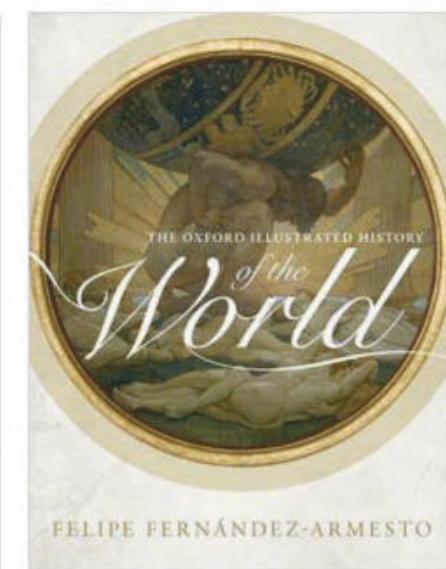
— Colin Salter

## 100 Speeches that Roused the World

By Colin Salter

Batsford, £14.99,  
hardback, 224 pages

As this history of persuasive speeches points out, the technique stretches back to Ancient Greece, and it's therefore fitting that the first of its chronological examples is from oratorical master Socrates. Yet it's not until the 20th century that it really picks up pace, with addresses from Winston Churchill ("blood, toil, tears and sweat"), Martin Luther King ("I have a dream"), and a host of influential figures from across politics, technology and culture.



## The Oxford Illustrated History of the World

Edited by Felipe Fernández-Armesto

Oxford University Press, £30,  
hardback, 496 pages

Some books are admirable because of their sheer scope and ambition, and this overview of the entirety of the human story fits firmly within that category. It's long, but not as long as you'd expect, and weighty, but not as weighty as you might fear. It features chapters on specific subjects, written by experts, to offer a look at history with some recurring themes: climate, conflict and change.

## VISUAL BOOK OF THE MONTH



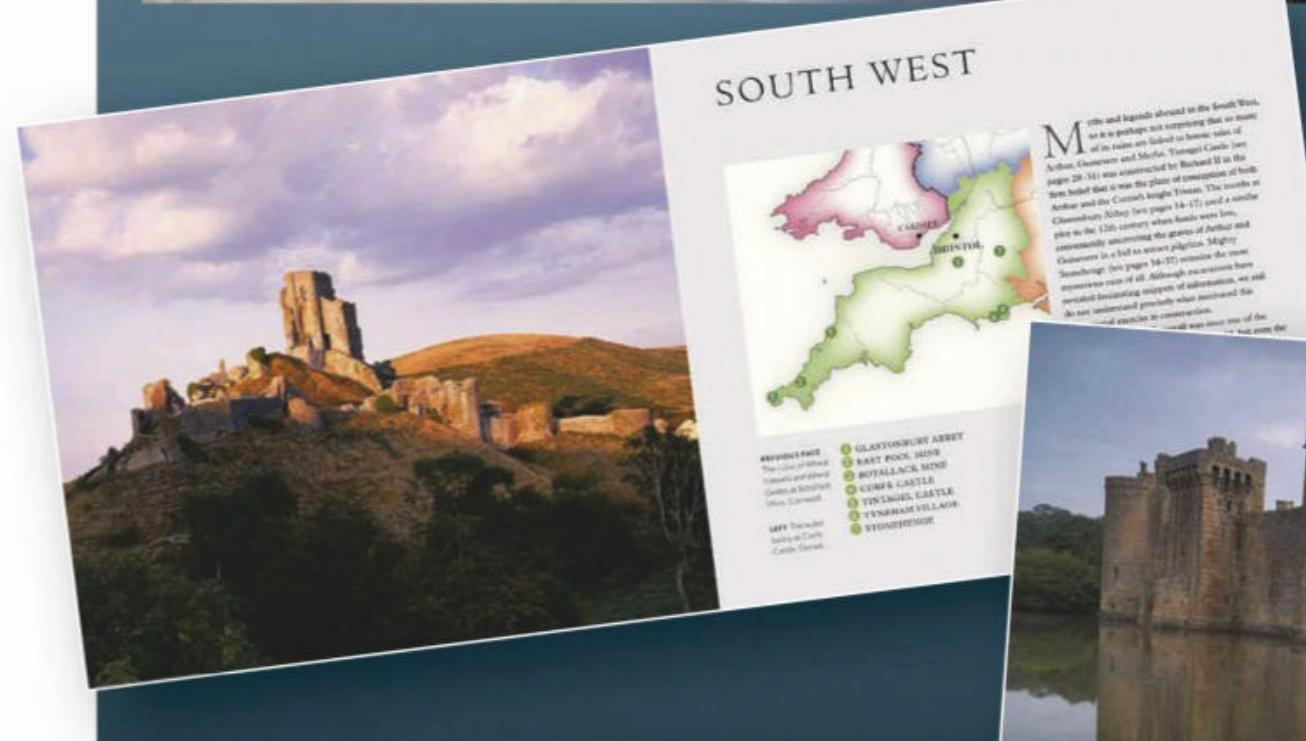
# Ruins: Discover Britain's Wild and Beautiful Places

By Jane Eastoe

Pavilion Books, £14.99, hardback, 176 pages

Studded throughout with beautiful, evocative photography of rolling landscapes and artfully lit ruins, this look at some of Britain's tumbledown structures doubles both as a history and an inspiring guide to your next day out. These castles, houses and follies – all now owned by the National Trust, and spread throughout Britain – stand as proud monuments to both human ambition and the sadness of their later abandonment.

**“This doubles as a history and an inspiring guide to your next day out”**



NYMPHSFIELD  
LONG BARN, GLoucestershire

**D**uring the night of 20 February 1947, a fire started in the medieval manor house of 15th-century Lord Lovell and his wife, Margaret. Lovell raised the alarm and 20 fire-fighters struggled to gain control of the blaze in the village of Nympsfield, but in the bitter cold weather all the nearby sources of water were frozen, making their task nigh-impossible. The loss of the stability of the house and its contents, which included three glassboughs, a Vézelay and a Renaissance, was reported in the national newspapers.

The remains of this 'medieval' manor house still stand in the ruins of the magnificient gardens at Nympsfield, but in accordance, the house was comprehensively new – a gleaming piece of pseudo-medieval architecture completed just 19 years earlier.

**Long Barn (1387-1395)** A Jewish refugee from a leading family in the region of Hessen-Darmstadt in Germany, arrived in England in 1390; it is said that he had gold coins sewn into his skirt to finance his new life. Lovell, known as a cloth merchant, had built up the well-known firm of Lovell and his son had set up the well-known house of L. Lovell & Co. in the City of London. In quick succession he married, became a

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**The beautifully photographed ruins are organised by region, tempting readers to make a trip to these crumbling treasures**

BODIAM CASTLE,  
EAST SUSSEX

**O**n first view, Bodiam Castle looks like a castle at all. It sits in one rectangular moat, with a single tower, River Rother, and looks a two-story structure with an arched parapet, four round towers along its sides, high windows with arched sills, two rectangular towers, and a three-story tower topped with a further four turrets with smaller belfries from which burning oil and water could be poured. However, recent tests and just what that might be.

**Bodiam Castle** was the brainchild of Sir Edward Dalyngrigge (c. 1346-93). With the prospect of an inheritance, he had travelled to France to make his fortune as a mercenary soldier in the One Hundred Years' War (1337-1453). Dalyngrigge was the son of the day and Dalyngrigge clearly did rather well. He then made a good marriage to Elizabeth Waren in 1370, and made from the Manor of Bodiam. He gradually elevated his status, acquiring a number of local offices including Justice of the Peace, Collector of Taxes and Member of Parliament.

Perhaps wary of the possibility of his new status's proximity to the Sussex Coast, French and Spanish raiders ports in Kent and Sussex, Dalyngrigge sought the King's permission to defend his home against the possibility of attack. He was not slow in doing so – defences were being constructed all along the Sussex Coast. The long war had left the English short of funds and the overstuffed Navy was struggling to patrol and protect the English Channel properly.

The King gave permission for Dalyngrigge to "erect a castle with a wall of stone... and enclose

LEFT: Nympsfield  
Long Barn, 13th-century  
William Lovell's  
stone barn  
RIGHT: Bodiam  
Castle, East Sussex

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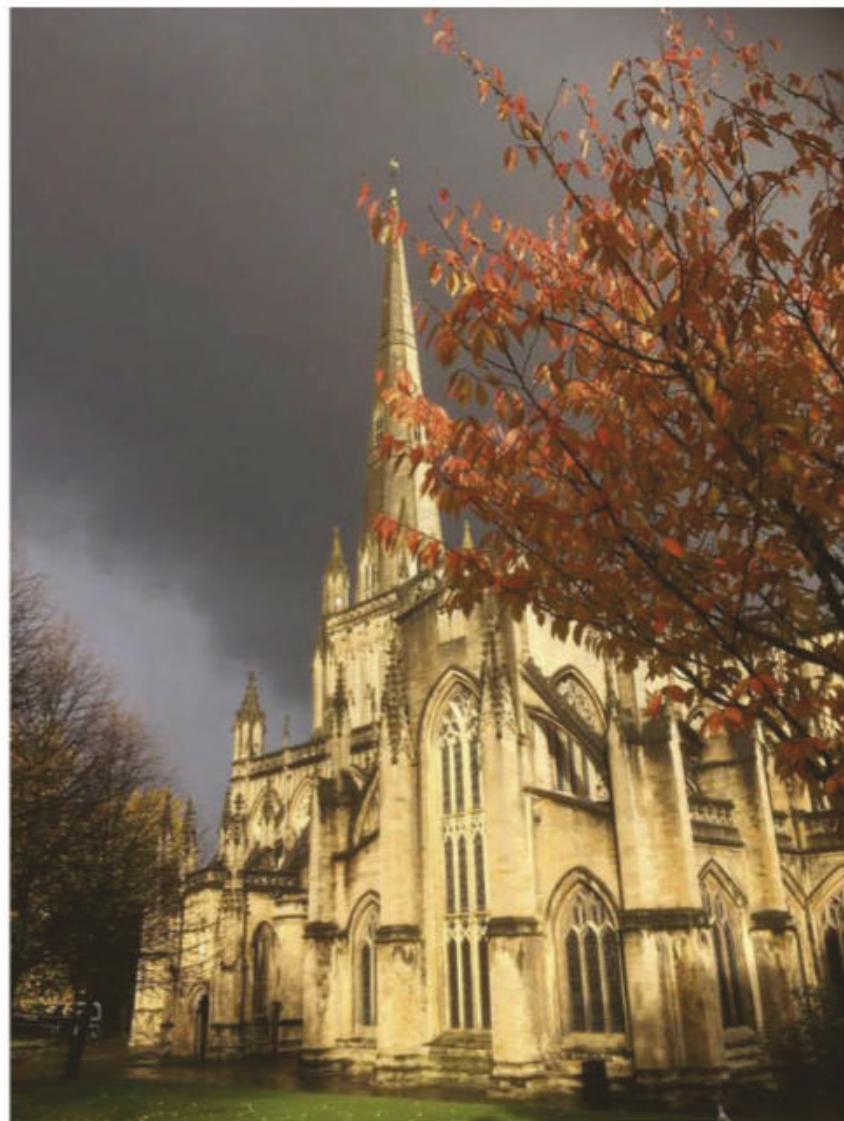
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## CEFALÙ WASH HOUSE, SICILY

“ I stumbled across this medieval wash house by accident, down a winding alley. Built over a river, local people have used it for centuries. They would bring their laundry to wash in the pools, before the water flowed out of the tunnels and into the sea. ”

Taken by: Cindy Yu, via email



## CHAPEL HILL, ISLE OF MAN

“ This Viking ship burial at Chapel Hill, Balladoole, dates back to between AD 850 and 950. It was first excavated in 1945 by a German refugee, along with a team from the intern camps on the island. They were originally looking for an Iron Age hillfort and stumbled upon the Viking burial instead. ”

**Taken by:** Tricia Bloomfield, via email

## ST MARY REDCLIFFE, BRISTOL

“ I walk past this church on my way to work most days, and it's easy to overlook the amazing Gothic architecture, but one morning, the light was so dramatic and the leaves on the trees were a wonderful bright red that I had to stop and take a picture. Elizabeth I, reportedly described it as the “fairest, goodliest and most famous parish church in England”. ”

**Taken by:** Rosa James, via email

### FEELING INSPIRED?

Send your snaps to us and we'll feature a selection every issue.  
[photos@historyrevealed.com](mailto:photos@historyrevealed.com)

## READERS' LETTERS

Get in touch – share your opinions on history and our magazine

### MISSING PRINCESSES?

I thoroughly enjoyed the Tudors collector's edition that came out, as well as all your issues involving the Tudors. When looking at the Tudors collection, however, I was surprised two Tudor princesses were not mentioned: Margaret Tudor and Mary Tudor (Henry VIII's

### LETTER OF THE MONTH

monarchs and then married second husbands who were commoners. One ended in divorce and the other with the

### “Although they are largely ignored, the two sisters had wills as strong as their brother”

sisters). Both were Tudors by blood and therefore their offspring would be a danger to the throne.

Margaret Tudor married James IV of Scotland and her great granddaughter was Mary, Queen of Scots. Mary Tudor was also grandmother to Lady Jane Grey. Both princesses married

death of the princess. I feel that although they are largely ignored, the two sisters had wills as strong as their brother.

✉ Sarah Leale via email

#### Editor's reply:

Thank you very much for your letter Sarah. It's great that you enjoyed our collector's edition on the Tudors, but you're

### FAMILY MATTERS

The focus always goes to the same Tudors, but Sarah wants the spotlight to go on two lesser-known princesses

absolutely right that Henry VIII's sisters – Mary and Margaret – were worthy of inclusion as they played pivotal roles in the Tudor dynasty. Unfortunately, we did not have the space to give them

the attention they deserved. Hopefully in the future, we can tell their fascinating stories.

### CASTRO'S LEGACY

I enjoyed your article about the Cuban Revolution (January 2019) and found it balanced and informative. My opinion is that Fidel Castro changed Cuba

for the better. I have visited the country and found that the people hold a reverence for him. He was its leader through very turbulent times and stuck to his principles without compromise.



### THE CUBAN REVOLUTION

Sixty years ago, Fidel Castro's victorious revolutionaries arrived in Havana. Nige Tassell revisits an armed rebellion that brought communism within 90 miles of the Florida coast

Since the late 1950s, the US has imposed an economic embargo, which every other country apart from Israel is against. Despite that, Cuba has developed an egalitarian society that helps the poorest have a good education and health care. Castro was the guiding light.

✉ Mark Campey

via email

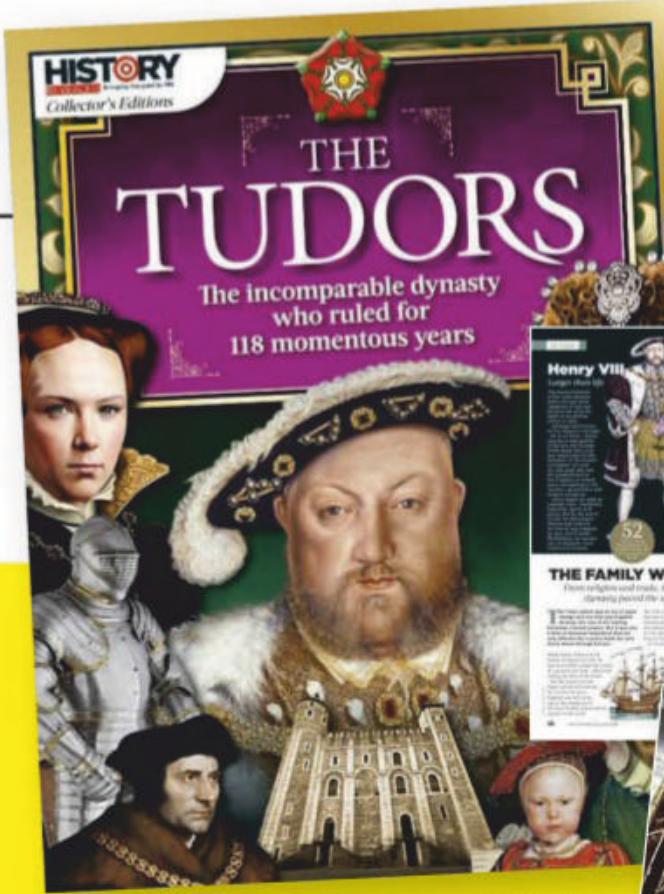
### TRY ANYTHING!

Amazing – bottled farts were considered a remedy to the Black Plague!

✉ @kes1959

### GUIDING LIGHT

Castro changed Cuba, but for good or bad?



Sarah Leale wins the Oscar-nominated *First Man* on DVD. Starring Ryan Gosling and Claire Foy and directed by Damien Chazelle (*La La Land*, *Whiplash*), it takes one of the most important moments in human history – the Moon landing in 1969 – and tells it with hard-hitting power through the story of the fated first astronaut Neil Armstrong.

### TIME TO BURY THE MUMMY'S CURSE?

I read with interest your recent article on Tutankhamun's curse and how it is still going strong after a century. While good for campfire stories, the original tomb raiders were mostly at risk of heatstroke, falling rocks or 2000-year-old mould being inhaled than the supernatural curse of a mummy. Even the first man to disturb that ancient coffin – and died years later of cancer – called it hocus pocus.

It's wonderful that even today, Hollywood producers are able to bring these ancient curses to life and sauce up the details of another dreary dig, but I think it's best to put the mummy back

in the box and move onto better stories.

✉ **Matthew Wilson**  
Wolverhampton

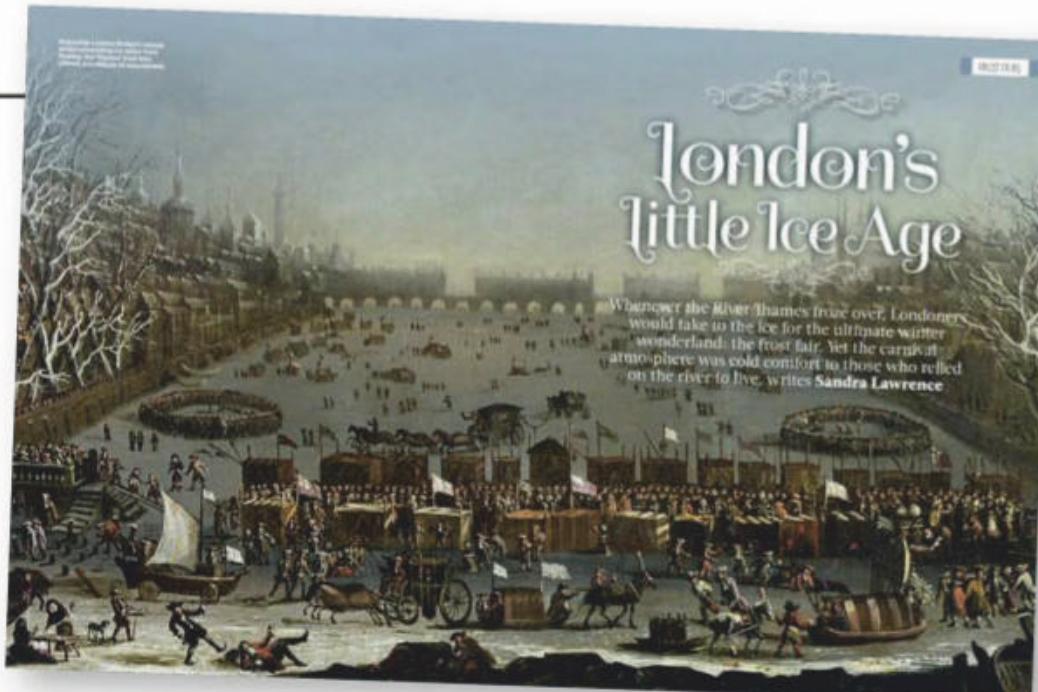
## INSPIRING TIME OF THE MONTH

I love this time of the month, when my favourite magazine arrives. Great material for starting off ideas. Amazing life stories!

✉ **@BillingReeves**

## TOO MANY JOHNS

I am here in the USA and avidly read History Revealed magazine each month, from cover to cover. You do a great job presenting interesting information in an appealing fashion. Keep up the good



### ICE-CAPADES

A frozen River Thames would send Londoners onto the ice for frost fairs – and, as one reader, discovered, a bit more fun

work. My question relates to the article in issue 62 on Popes and the Papacy (Graphic History, December 2018). In the Top 10 papal names, you

indicate that the name John has been used 21 times. My recollection is that Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli became Pope John XXIII. Is there something I'm missing about pope Johns?

✉ **Robert J. Baldwin**  
Roswell, Georgia

**Editor's reply:**  
There's been no mistake, but it is a bit of a confusing answer. Firstly, the 10th-century pope John XVI is considered an antipope, so he was skipped and John XVII was the

**WHAT'S IN A NAME?**  
There has been a Pope John XXIII, but only 21 popes named John – confused yet?

16th pope to take that name. Also, there was never a Pope John XX, as Peter Juliani – the 19th to take the name John – decided to skip to John XXI. This was due to a mistaken 11th-century belief that there had been a pope named John between the antipope Boniface VII and John XV.

## WATERWAY TO PARTY

Fantastic piece @HistoryRevMag (London's Little Ice Age, January 2019)! Nothing quite like Londoners' resolve during harsh times: "An honest woman (they say) that had a great longing to have her husband get her with child upon the Thames."

✉ **@Halcrow92**

## CORRECTIONS

• In Britain's Treasures in issue 65, we printed on the map that the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley is on the north-east coast of Britain. It is, of course, in the West Midlands. Thanks to Anthony Wise and Jason Kelly for pointing out the error.

## ARE YOU A WINNER?

The lucky winners of the crossword from issue 63 are:  
**Nicola Lynn**, Newcastle  
**Christopher Read**, Newbury  
**Linda Randall**, Princes Risborough

Congratulations! You've each won a copy of **History: Year by Year** by DK.



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## EDITORIAL

**Editor** Paul McGuinness

[paul.mcguinness@immediate.co.uk](mailto:paul.mcguinness@immediate.co.uk)

**Production Editor** Kev Lochun

[kev.lochun@immediate.co.uk](mailto:kev.lochun@immediate.co.uk)

## Staff Writer

Emma Slattery Williams

## ART

**Art Editor** Sheu-Kuei Ho

**Picture Editor** Rosie McPherson

**Illustrators** Marina Amaral,

Sue Gent, Chris Stocker

## CONTRIBUTORS & EXPERTS

Pete Beech, Julian Humphrys, Lauren Johnson, Don McCullin, Gordon O'Sullivan, Christer Petley, Mark Simmer, Peter Snow, Richard Smyth, Emma Southon, Jonny Wilkes

## PRESS & PR

**Communications Manager**

Dominic Lobley 020 7150 5015

[dominic.lobley@immediate.co.uk](mailto:dominic.lobley@immediate.co.uk)

## CIRCULATION

**Circulation Manager** Helen Seymour

## ADVERTISING & MARKETING

**Group Advertising Manager**

Tom Drew [tom.drew@immediate.co.uk](mailto:tom.drew@immediate.co.uk)

**Advertisement Manager**

Sam Jones 0117 314 8847

[sam.jones@immediate.co.uk](mailto:sam.jones@immediate.co.uk)

**Subscriptions Director**

Jacky Perales-Morris

**Subscriptions Marketing Manager**

Natalie Lawrence

## PRODUCTION

**Production Director** Sarah Powell

**Production Co-ordinator**

Lily Owens-Crossman

**Ad Co-ordinator** Jade O'Halloran

**Ad Designer** Julia Young

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## PUBLISHING

**Publisher** David Musgrove

**Publishing Director** Andy Healy

**Managing Director** Andy Marshall

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## Basic annual subscription rates

**UK** £64.87 **Eire/Europe** £67.99

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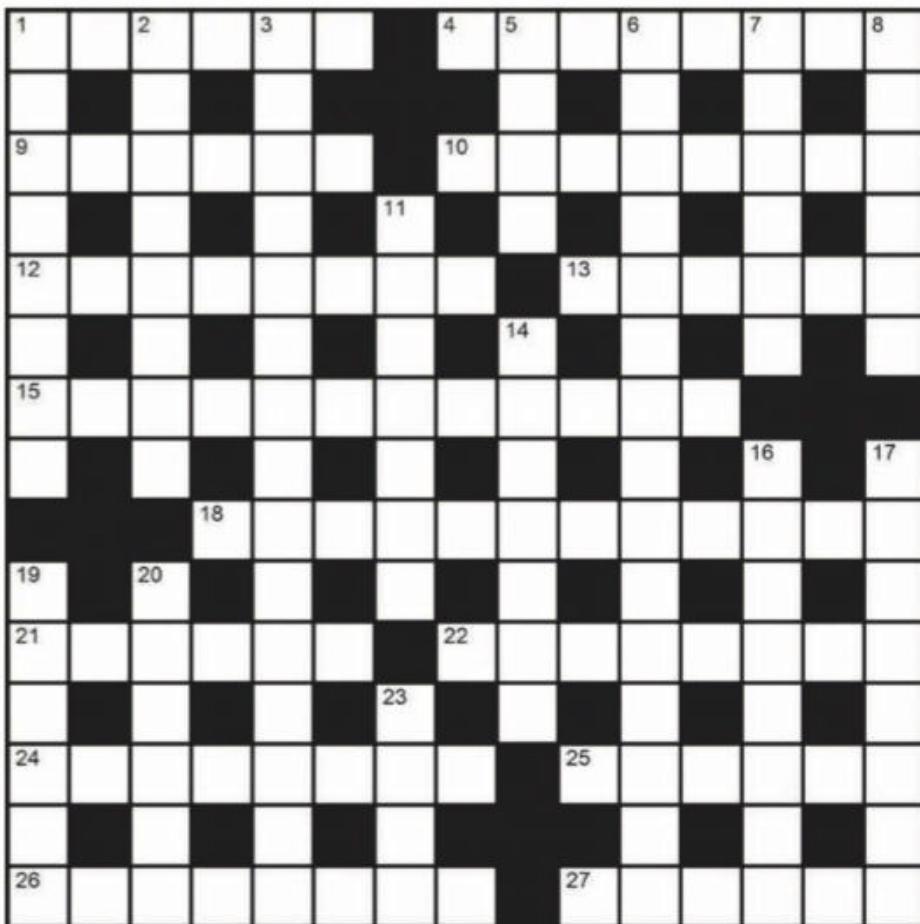
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\*\*based on 100 property study

## CROSSWORD N° 66

Test your history knowledge to solve our prize puzzle – and you could win a fantastic new book

Set by Richard Smyth



### ACROSS

- 1 African state formerly known as Nyasaland (6)
- 4 In Ancient Greece, a public sacrifice of animals, originally 100 oxen (8)
- 9 Ship used by Ernest Shackleton in his 1908 Antarctic expedition (6)
- 10 al-Zarqawi (1966–2006), Jordanian-born jihadist and member of al-Qaeda (3,5)
- 12 One of the Knights of the Round Table (8)
- 13 “It has been said... that in 1802 every hereditary monarch was \_\_\_” – Walter Bagehot (6)
- 15 Storyteller in *One Thousand and One Nights* (12)
- 18 Noël Coward play, first performed in 1941 (6,6)

- 21 Italian title of *Symphony No. 3 in E flat major*, composed by Beethoven (6)
- 22 ‘Banjo’ \_\_\_ (1864–1941), Australian poet (8)
- 24 Anglicised name of the Roman statesman later known as Augustus Caesar (8)
- 25 Jewish prophet of the eighth century BC (6)
- 26 Maximum security prison in New York state, in use since 1826 (4,4)
- 27 Middle Eastern state founded in 1948 (6)

### DOWN

- 1 Oil portrait painting from Leonardo da Vinci (4,4)
- 2 Historical region of Spain

### CROSSWORD COMPETITION TERMS & CONDITIONS

The competition is open to all UK residents (inc. Channel Islands), aged 18 or over, except Immediate Media Co Bristol Ltd employees or contractors, and anyone connected with the competition or their direct family members. By entering, participants agree to be bound by these terms and conditions and that their name and county may be released if they win. Only one entry per person.

The closing date and time is as shown under **How to Enter**, above. Entries received after that will not be considered. Entries cannot be returned. Entrants must supply full name, address and daytime phone number. Immediate Media Company (publishers of *History Revealed*) will only ever use personal details for the purposes of administering this competition, and will not publish them or provide them to anyone without permission. Read more about the Immediate Privacy Policy at [www.immediatemedia.co.uk/privacy-policy](http://www.immediatemedia.co.uk/privacy-policy).

The winning entrants will be the first correct entries drawn at random after the closing time. The prize and number of winners will be as shown on the Crossword page. There is no cash alternative and the prize will not be transferable. Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited's decision is final and no correspondence relating to the competition will be entered into. The winners will be notified by post within 28 days of the close of the competition. The name and county of residence of the winners will be published in the magazine within two months of the

### CHANCE TO WIN

#### Double Agent Victoire

by David Tremain



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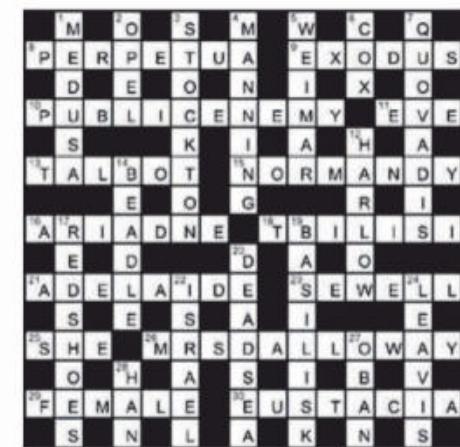
**Published by The History Press, £25.**

### HOW TO ENTER

Post entries to **History Revealed, March 2019 Crossword, PO Box 501, Leicester LE94 0AA** or email them to [march2019@historyrevealedcomps.co.uk](mailto:march2019@historyrevealedcomps.co.uk) by noon on **1 April 2019**.

By entering, participants agree to be bound by the terms and conditions shown in the box below. Immediate Media Co Ltd, publishers of *History Revealed*, would love to keep you informed by post or telephone of special offers and promotions from the Immediate Media Co Group. Please write ‘Do Not Contact IMC’ if you prefer not to receive such information by post or phone. If you would like to receive this information by email, please write your email address on the entry. You may unsubscribe from receiving these messages at any time. For more about the Immediate Privacy Policy, see the box below.

### SOLUTION N° 64



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# Cosy Crime Pays For Indy Author

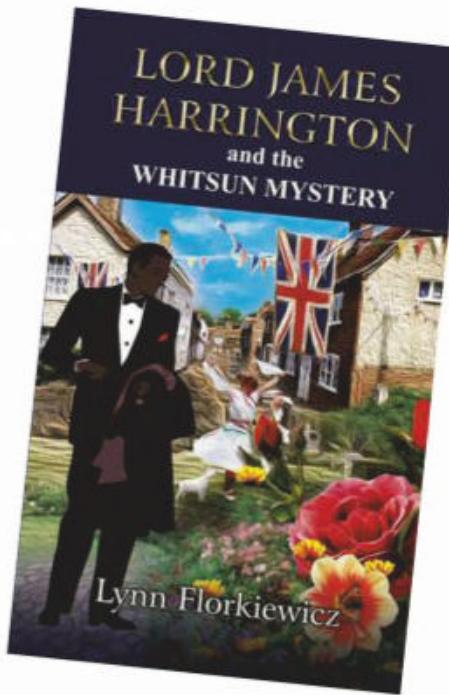
Lynn Florkiewicz's dream of being a writer began when she was just six years old, but it had to sit on the back-burner until, at the age of 45, she took a creative writing course with The Writers Bureau, and started out on a whole new adventure...

Avid reading as a child laid the foundation for Lynn's love of mystery and crime stories, and she always imagined that one day she'd write her own. When she grew up though, marriage and a promising career as a singer/songwriter on the British and American folk circuits gave her little time to pursue writing until, after a bout of particularly debilitating illness, she decided it was time to bring it to the fore.

Lynn enrolled on The Writers Bureau's Creative Writing Course back in 2001. She worked steadily through its 20 tutor-marked assignments, earning her course fees back from published work and getting placed/highly commended in several writing competitions along the way. Confidence thoroughly boosted, she then decided to try writing a children's adventure story - *The Quest for the Crystal Skulls*, of which, BBC Springwatch's Michaela Strachen said: 'There are many ways to create awareness about what we're doing to planet Earth, I found this an incredibly powerful and compelling one. I read it in one go.' (*The Quest for the Crystal Skulls* is available from Amazon and Penpress Partnership Book Publishing).

Inspired by a long-time love of cosy crime (Agatha Christie, Carola Dunn etc), Lynn's

next move was to follow her childhood dream and create her own murder-mystery series. And so it was that Lord James Harrington, country landowner, ex-racing driver and amateur sleuth, was born. When her first whodunit, *The Winter Mystery*, was launched on Kindle it received a plethora of five-star reviews from cosy crime fans, and that was all the encouragement Lynn needed to write more.



Five years on, and Lord James Harrington is a well-established character with his name on eight book covers. Lynn is already in the process of writing a ninth, with plans to release a new mystery every year. The books are all available from Amazon in Kindle,

print and audio format, as well as from Lord Harrington's very own website: [www.lordjamesharrington.com](http://www.lordjamesharrington.com).

"I've created a world that I adore and I love to slip into that imaginary community and meet up with my characters," says Lynn. "I am not a literary writer. I'm not here to change the world or make you think, I want to entertain people and, from the feedback I've received, I tick that box."

Recently, Lord James Harrington was picked-up by Magna Publishing (part of Ulverscroft). They intend to release the whole series in audio and large print formats, and already, the American Audio File Magazine has awarded the first of these recordings with an Earphone Audio Award.

Lynn is just one of many Writers Bureau students who have found their way to publishing success. So if you harbour a dream to write, they can help. Their courses provide students with a professional writer as a personal tutor and cover all types of writing, as well as teaching the business side of being an author. To request free details, contact The Writers Bureau at: [www.writersbureau.com](http://www.writersbureau.com) or call - 0800 856 2008. You'll be glad you did! Quote 1Z319

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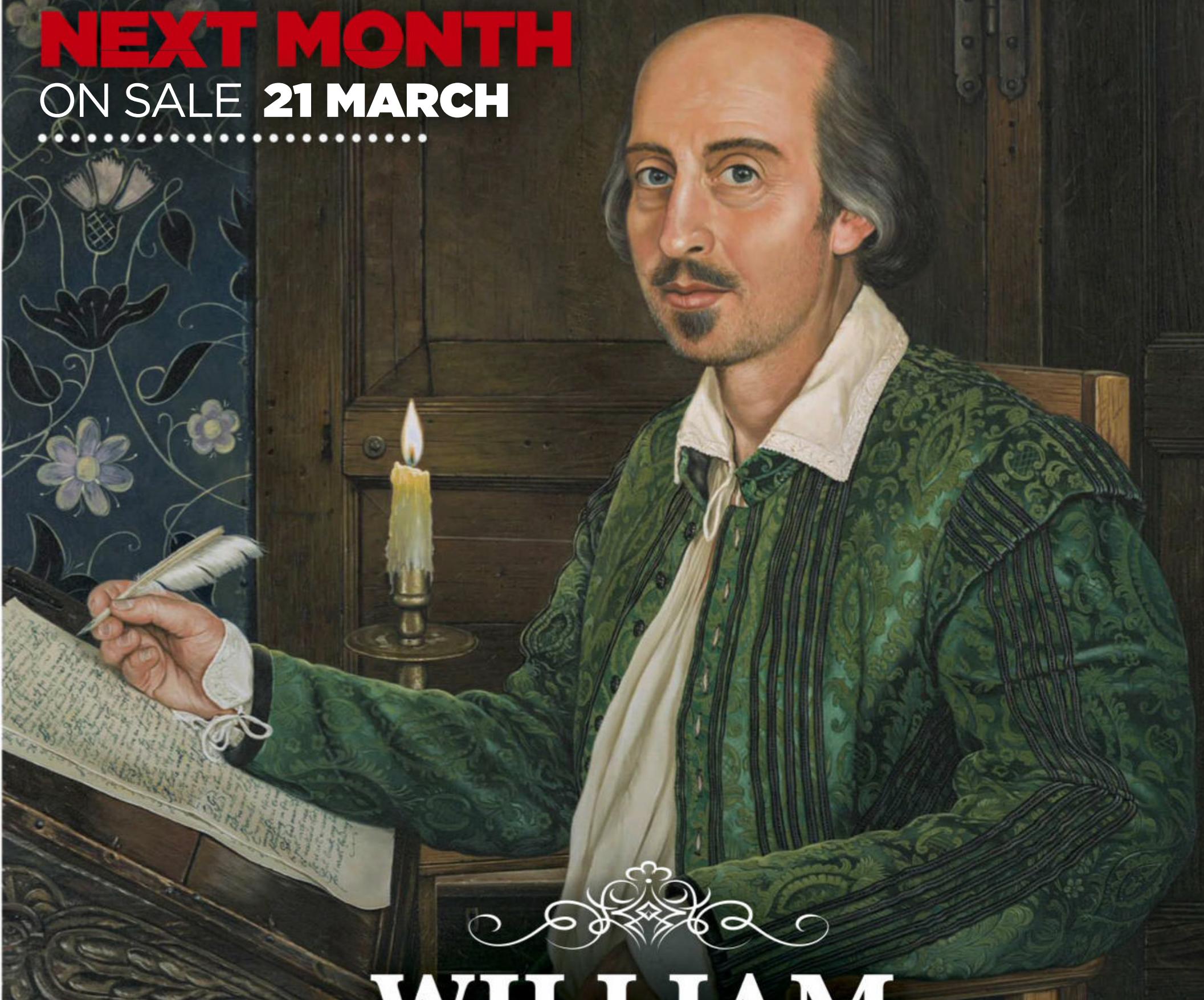
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**NEXT MONTH**

ON SALE **21 MARCH**



# WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

# BEHIND THE MASK

**ALSO NEXT MONTH...**

ÆTHELFLÆD: LADY OF THE MERCIANS THE  
AMRITSAR MASSACRE **SAMUEL PEPYS** U-BOATS  
AND THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC **RICHARD**  
**THE LIONHEART** KILLER HASHASHINS **THE**  
**LONDON UNDERGROUND** AND MUCH MORE...

**LONDON, 1940**

Wally's barbers in Soho remains defiant after heavy bombing during the Blitz blows out its windows. From 7 September 1940, London was bombed for 57 consecutive days and nights; regular air raids continued until May 1941, with other major towns and cities across Britain also targeted. More than 43,500 citizens were killed during the nine months of terror.

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TO  
15 JUN

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ENTRY

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## FREE PUBLIC LECTURES

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09 APR *Falerii Novi (Lzaio, Italy):  
the impact of high resolution ground-penetrating  
radar survey on understanding a Roman republican  
city*  
Lecture by Prof Martin Millett FSA & Prof Frank  
Vermeulen FSA

07 MAY *The Shows and Sights of Georgian  
London:  
a Board Game Tour of the Metropolis*  
Lecture by Dr Adrian Seville FSA

04 JUN *An unparalleled Anglo-Saxon Warrior  
Treasure:  
the Staffordshire Hoard Project, 2012–2017*  
Lecture by Chris Fern FSA

## RESEARCH SHOWCASE - *ELEMENTS*

Friday 19 July

Join us for a fun-filled family day, offering our grant recipients the opportunity to present their recent research at Burlington House through table-top displays, talks, and interactive workshops.

## BURLINGTON HOUSE LATES

This event coincides with the Burlington House Courtyard Late (6pm onwards), where visitors can see our courtyard like never before and discover the six learned societies that reside here, furthering the study of art, history and science. Each society has a unique programme to offer audiences of all ages, and great food and drink on offer too.

*Detail from The Staffordshire Hoard:  
An Anglo-Saxon Treasure. (June 2019 )*

Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W1J 0BE

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